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Near East & South Asia

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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Envoy Informs U.S. of Intifadah Deaths *[Tunis Radio]* 1
'Arafat Interview on Intifadah, 'Greater Israel' *[Amman TV]* 1
Spokesman Says House Resolution 'Irresponsible' *[Baghdad VOP]* 8
Delegate Appeals to UN on Jerusalem Hostel *[Baghdad VOP]* 9
PLO's Sha'th Interviewed on Peace Prospects *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 24 Apr]* 9
Correspondent Questions Sincerity of Iraqi Pledge *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 10
'Arafat on 'Urgent Need' For Intifadah Support *[INA]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak Message to Bush on Jerusalem Detailed *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 12
AL-AKHBAR Criticizes U.S. House Resolution *[MENA]* 12
Syrian Envoy Previews Mubarak-Al-Asad Meeting *[MENA]* 12
Fatah Holds U.S. Responsible for 'Massacres' *[MENA]* 13
Three Killed as Asyut Police, Marchers Clash *[MENA]* 13
Governor Disavows Islamic Role *[MENA]* 14

Libya

Commentary Condemns Congress Decision on Jerusalem *[JANA]* 14
Official Denies Involvement in Liberian Rebellion *[JANA]* 15

Morocco

New Weekly Cultural Magazine To Be Published *[MAP]* 15

Sudan

Military Court Judgements in Coup Trial Approved *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Al-Bashir Discusses Coup Attempt at Rally *[SUNA]* 15
Ummah Party Statement Condemns Executions *[SPLA Radio]* 16
Strike Participant Reportedly Tortured, Killed *[Radio SPLA]* 16
SPLA Statement Denies Coup Involvement *[Radio SPLA]* 17
Further Reportage on Pre-Coup Arrests *[Radio SPLA]* 18

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Tehran Says 'Large Number' Detained in Protests *[Tehran International]* 19

Saudi Arabia

Congress Resolution on Jerusalem Causes 'Concern' *[SPA]* 19

IRAQ

Newspaper Derides Prospect of U.S. Sanctions *[INA]* 20
Paper Denounces U.S. House Jerusalem Resolution *[INA]* 20
Columnist Scorns Syrian Reconciliation Bid *[AL-THAWRAH 22 Apr]* 20

ISRAEL

Political Maneuvers To Form Government Continue 22
Rabin Unity Plan Explained *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 22
Netanyahu Welcomes Proposal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Sharir Returns to Likud *[Jerusalem TV]* 23
Peres on Rabin Plan, Shamir *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Rabin on Labor 'Intense Dispute' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 23
Likud, SHAS Reaction *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Labor Follow-Up Team Detailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Herzog Grants Shamir Mandate *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Alignment Seen as 'Opposition' *[HA'ARETZ 27 Apr]* 25
Shamir on Settlement, Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Further on Immigrant Absorption, Jerusalem Dispute 26
2.44 Billion Shekels for Homes *[THE JERUSALEM POST 27 Apr]* 26
Churches Close in Protest *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Further on Results of Visit by CSFR's Havel 27
Palestinians Voice Concerns *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Accord Signed on Commission *[CTK]* 27
Economic Agreements Detailed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Editorial on 'Naive' U.S. Arms Sale Policy *[THE JERUSALEM POST 27 Apr]* 27
Remaining Norwegian Heavy Water To Be Returned *[HA'ARETZ 27 Apr]* 28
Soviet Emigration Cited in Population Totals *[MA'ARIV 27 Apr]* 28
117 Arabs, 12 Soldiers Wounded in Jabalyah Riots *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
General Strike in West Bank; Curfew Update *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29

LEBANON

Efforts Continue To Free Westerners, Iranians 30
Further on Fadlallah Remarks *[Voice of National Resistance]* 30
'Source' on ICRC Workers *[RFL]* 30
ICRC Delegation Arrives *[Beirut Radio]* 30
Team Departs; No Announcement *[VOL]* 30
'Awn Says Al-Ta'if Accord 'No Solution' *[London AL-HAWADITH 27 Apr]* 30
'Awn Rules Out Victory by Lebanese Forces *[VOM]* 33
Paper Expects End to Eastern Battles in 1 Month *[VOL]* 33
Continued Detention of Ship 'Reason' for Fighting *[Beirut Radio]* 33
East Beirut Shelling; Another Ship Intercepted *[VOM]* 34
Syrian Defense Minister Visits Forces at al-Biqa' *[Beirut Radio]* 34
Islamic Resistance Destroys Two Israeli Tanks *[Voice of National Resistance]* 34

SYRIA

Commentary Says Congress 'Extension' of Knesset *[Damascus Radio]* 35
Soviet, Media Reaction to Al-Asad USSR Visit 35
Ambassador Zotov Comments *[Damascus TV]* 35
Will 'Reinforce' Relations *[Damascus Radio]* 35

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Nation on 'Id Al-Fitr *[Kabul Radio]* 37
Rabbani Rejects Mojaddedi-Najibullah Compromise *[IRNA]* 37
Rockets Kill Eight in Kabul on Festival Day *[AFP]* 37

2 Killed, 11 Injured in Kabul Missile Attack *[Kabul Radio]* 38
Rebels Continue Battle for Paghman Mountains *[AFP]* 38
Mass Arrests Reported in Kabul After Convoy Blast *[AFP]* 38

India

First 'Indigenous' Missile Boat Launched 26 Apr *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Launching Detailed *[Delhi TV]* 39
More Evidence of Pakistani Interference Cited *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Air Chief Asks Forces To Remain Vigilant *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Australia-Pakistan Jet Deal Called 'Regrettable' *[Delhi Radio]* 39
Paper Alleges Foreign Secretary Pushed Out *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 21 Apr]* 40

Iran

Persons 'Spying for U.S.' To Be Hanged *[IRNA]* 40
Prosecutor Announces Planned Executions *[AFP]* 40
Velayati Links Western, Iranian Hostages Release *[Paris TV]* 40
Paper Calls for Second Hostage Release *[TEHRAN TIMES 23 Apr]* 41
Mohajerani Calls for Direct Talks With U.S. *[AFP]* 42
More on Mohajerani Comments *[IRNA]* 42
Khamene'i Delivers 'Id Sermon Before 'Millions' *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Delivers Second 'Id al-Fitr Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Issues 'Id al-Fitr Amnesty *[IRNA]* 44
Velayati Meets Italian Foreign Minister at UN *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Citizen Reportedly Refutes Danish Execution Claims *[IRNA]* 44
Danish Ambassador Summoned *[IRNA]* 45
Parliamentary Friendship Group With China Proposed *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Agriculture Minister Returns From FAO Session *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Paper Blames Saudi Arabia for Oil Price Slump *[IRNA]* 45
Christians Called Victims of 'Zionist Bullying' *[TEHRAN TIMES 16 Apr]* 46
Paper Decries 'Soviet Jewish Exodus' *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 16 Apr]* 46
Karrubi Stresses Ties with Palestinians *[Tehran Radio]* 47
Paper Calls Israeli Immigration 'Conspiracy' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 15 Apr]* 47
Commentary Stresses Muslims Must Oppose 'Plot' *[Tehran International]* 48
Editorials Say Muslims Key to Kashmiri Peace *[IRNA]* 48
Al-Bashir's Harsh Policies in Sudan Noted *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Paper Criticizes Turkish Media Coverage *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 15 Apr]* 49
'Victims of Violence' Denounce Rajavi Murder *[IRNA]* 50
Customs Cites Figures on Imports, Exports *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Rally Held Against Spread of Western Culture *[IRNA]* 50
Statistics Given on Narcotics, Smuggling *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Khamene'i Appoints New Air Force Commander *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Yazdi Addresses Law Officers on Anniversary *[Tehran TV]* 51
Expediency Council Discusses Labor Laws *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Ground Satellite Installed in Larestan Region *[Tehran Radio]* 52
*Plans To Control Population Growth Announced *[London KEYHAN 12 Apr]* 52
*Bomb Reportedly Explodes in Two Guard Garrisons *[London KEYHAN 12 Apr]* 52
*1970-73 Birth Certificates To Be Changed *[London KEYHAN 12 Apr]* 53
*Air Connection To Resume Between Iran, Canada *[London KEYHAN 12 Apr]* 53
*Skirmishes Reported in Tobacco Factory *[London KEYHAN 12 Apr]* 53
*Compulsory Literacy To Be Enforced *[London KEYHAN 12 Apr]* 53
*Banking Activities With Egypt Expanding *[London KEYHAN 5 Apr]* 54
*Salaries of Civil Servants Increased *[London KEYHAN 5 Apr]* 54
*Skirmishes Reported Between People, IRGC *[London KEYHAN 22 Mar]* 54
*Several Killed, Wounded in Explosion 18 Mar *[London KEYHAN 22 Mar]* 56

Nepal & Bhutan

King Urges Support for Multiparty Government *[KYODO]* 56
Leaders Appeal for Unity Before Polls *[AFP]* 57

New Interim Government Disbands Local Councils *[AFP]* 57
Overnight Curfew Lifted in Kathmandu 26 Apr *[Delhi Radio]* 57

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan on Talks With UN Chief, India's Gujral 57
Disputes Indian Account *[Islamabad Radio]* 57
Calls Gujral Meeting 'Step Forward' *[Delhi Radio]* 58

Sri Lanka

Minister Appreciates Chinese Government's Support *[Colombo International]* 58
Government Reportedly Bans Latest Issue of TIME *[AFP]* 58

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Envoy Informs U.S. of Intifadah Deaths

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[Text] Mr. Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis, met yesterday with the U.S. ambassador, Robert Pelletreau Jr. They discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

According to informed Palestinian sources, Mr. Bal'awi conveyed to the ambassador a verbal message from president Yasir 'Arafat to the U.S. Administration, in which he drew its attention to the situation in the occupied territories, especially in the Jabalyah refugee camp near Gaza, where three Palestinians were shot dead yesterday by Israeli soldiers when the latter were suppressing a demonstration in the camp. He also drew attention to the martyrdom of a fourth Palestinian and pointed out that 150 Palestinians were injured by Zionist bullets yesterday during the various demonstrations organized in the occupied territories on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr.

'Arafat Interview on Intifadah, 'Greater Israel'

JN2604081090 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1958 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified as president of the state of Palestine, in the weekly "Meet the Press" program, moderated by Amman AL-RA'Y columnist Tariq Masarwah, AL- DUSTUR columnist Mu'nis al-Razzaz, and SAWT AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Sultan al-Hattab in Amman; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Masarwah] We are delighted to have with us tonight President Yasir 'Arafat, who is dear to his Palestinian people and the Arab nation. We welcome you, Mr. President, tonight. We are uncertain about how to begin, but your recent trip to Europe—Paris, Prague, Rome, and the Vatican, particularly your trip to Prague—was not given its due recognition, as it was the first Arab contact with East Europe after the fast-breaking changes there. You are now in Jordan, and you and his majesty the king and the Jordanian Government have discussed joint action to hold an Arab summit to tackle Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and the repercussions of this emigration and its connection with the scheme of Greater Israel. Another topic is the state of national Palestinian unity three years after the glorious intifadah, whose leader you are. There is also the Arab situation and how to consolidate it. In fact, we have a beginning but no end tonight, due to the great number of questions and because we are anxious to hear from you the latest developments. Beginning with Palestinian national unity....

['Arafat, interrupting] Allow me to interrupt you. On this good and glorious occasion, I would like to begin by telling martyr hero Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], my comrade in life and struggle, starting with the first bullet and first stone, especially since the anniversary of his death falls on Palestinian prisoner day: O Abu-Jihad, prince of martyrs, a pledge is a pledge, and an oath is an oath. God willing, this intifadah will continue wave after wave, this popular revolution will continue wave after wave until the Palestinian flag is hoisted over the walls of Jerusalem, the churches of Jerusalem, and the minarets of Jerusalem. I would also like to tell those prisoners who are suffering with their wounds, who are greater than their executioners, and who have turned prisons into academies for the revolution and revolutionaries: Morning is our appointed time. Is morning not near?

[Masarwah] It is near, God willing. This really expresses your loyalty to your many companions who are dear to the Arab nation. Sir, let us begin from the rock of national Palestinian unity, especially since we are witnessing the greatness of the intifadah on the days to which you have referred. There are now the brothers in Syria, there is now Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement], and there is now a committee to form a Palestine National Council [PNC]. Can Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] sum this up?

['Arafat] First of all, I would like to tell you proudly that every plot has foundered on the rock of national Palestinian unity, which is based on this democracy in which we take pride. You, in cherished and sisterly Jordan are undergoing an experience for which I congratulate you. I also congratulate His Majesty King Husayn on his decision to embark on this experience. I also congratulate the people in Jordan on this democracy. We, in our arena, also have this democracy. When the PNC convened, you saw how the Palestinian leaders abided by the Legal Committee's ruling when we wanted to adopt a decision against one of our brothers. The committee said such a decision was impermissible because the person concerned was not present.

The entire PNC submitted to a decision taken by the chairman of the Legal Committee. Some, even the majority of brothers in Damascus, are in contact with us. We say to them: Welcome, because their place in the PNC is reserved for them, just like my brothers in the Palestine Popular Struggle Front who came back and rejoined the PLO. The PLO's door is open to them.

My brothers in Hamas have representatives. They object to the apportionment of their representation and they want more seats. We are discussing this with them. This is democracy. What is pluralism? We have accepted pluralism, so what is it? My brothers in the [Islamic] Jihad also said we want our share and we want to be given seats [in the PNC]. So we say: Welcome. Of course, I cannot deprive them, and I cannot stop anyone from saying i want more seats. We are discussing this with them.

We have popular unions that encompass all the people. For example, I salute the unified Palestinian Women's

Council inside [the occupied territories], and I congratulate the workers on their latest union. I have urged my brothers in the workers union inside to let a brother from Hamas join them. They said the brothers in Hamas are not interested in the labor movement. But, I told them that, even if they are not interested, we must get them involved, and have their representatives in the labor movement. This is our practice.

Unity and democracy constitute the strongest rock on which all attempts to sow discord and all conspiracies against the PLO, the Palestinian people, and the Palestine question were crushed. I say, therefore, that the Palestinian people's strongest shield is this democracy and pluralism. He who finds wrongdoing must fight it with his hands, or tongue, or in his heart at least [a saying attributed to Prophet Muhammad].

I am very pleased when a Palestinian child throwing a stone, says: Stop, Abu-'Ammar, you are mistaken. This is the source of my strength. This is the real strength of Abu-'Ammar. The Palestinian children who are facing Israeli military might with their stones and flesh can do this. The Palestinian women who stood up in Bayt Sahur, Jerusalem, Nabulus, Hebron, Janin, Gaza, Jericho, Khan Yunus, Rafah, and in the camps and villages—these Palestinian women who, at one point, led the intifadah when the first waves of men were arrested—can do this. This is my strength, they are our real strength. They have the right, therefore, to tell Abu-'Ammar: Stop, you are wrong here. I humbly say that this is democracy. What is the meaning of democracy? [laughing] True, our democracy goes a little too far, but what can we do? We have to accept it.

[Al-Razzaz] Brother President Abu-'Ammar: You have talked about national unity in occupied Palestine and in the valiant intifadah. With your permission, we would like to talk about national unity in Jordan. You told the Jordanian popular delegation you met in Baghdad in late March that the Palestinians in Jordan are Jordanians, which means they must interact in a positive way in Jordanian political and public life, with the exception of members of Palestinian factions and members of PLO institutions. You also said that Palestinians in Jordan are in a special situation, different from their situation in any other Arab country. How do you view Jordanian-Palestinian national unity inside Jordan until the establishment of the independent Palestinian state? Do you, for example, encourage Jordanian Palestinians to join the parties that will be set up after the national charter is approved?

['Arafat] The Palestinians in Jordan are Jordanians. This is something that should be clear; I said it to my brothers when I met with them. We in the PLO, therefore, have declined to establish branches of popular unions in Jordan. We, for instance, have a branch of the General Union of Palestinian Workers in Sydney. Why not establish a branch in Jordan? We have determined that Palestinians here are part of an integrated whole. If we acted otherwise, we would be breaking faith with our historical trust, as we—both Jordanians and Palestinians—are standing in the front line and on the firing line. If we do not take this into consideration, then we can only blame ourselves. I am committed to these decisions; they are not Yasir 'Arafat's decisions, but the PLO's. We have been observing the new democratic experience here with satisfaction. It is true that there were some harmful campaigns here—and we have also had harmful Palestinian campaigns—but we can tolerate this. As I told you, our democracy is slightly overdone, and the new democracy here, naturally, is slightly overdone. We must nurture this democratic experience. The PNC has referred to the unique relationship between the two people. We did not say this at the PNC session in Amman so we could not be accused of flattery. We said it as we were leaving Beirut, with the glory of fighting for 88 days in the longest Arab-Israeli war. We said it at the PNC session in Algiers. We said that relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples are historically unique. There are family and brotherly interactions. Every Jordanian tribe—whether Bani Hasan, al-Huwaytat, Bani Sakhr, al- Majali, or the other tribes of al-Salt, Irbid, the Jordan valley—provided martyrs in the 1948 war. You are too young to know this, Mu'nis, not as old as Tariq and myself. I fought with them proudly. They have their martyrs. These words, therefore, are anointed with blood and martyrdom. They are not flattery. We, therefore, talked of the unique relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people as we were leaving Beirut. We were reading the future. We reiterated this point in the PNC and in the independence document. It, therefore, is not an emotional matter; it is much deeper. We are both in the sacred front, standing fast. We must not allow any harm to come to these relations.

[Al-Hattab] Brother President Abu-'Ammar: The valiant intifadah and the Palestinian peace initiative constitute two important and major developments in the Palestine question. Israel needed to react to these developments, so it concocted the immigration issue, which constitutes our greatest challenge. You have dealt with the immigration issue deeply and knowledgeably, and you have made significant contacts. You recently received a message from President Gorbachev. You are trying to curb the immigration so it will not disturb the Palestinian demographic balance or take place at the expense of the Palestinan people, their land, and their future generations. How do you envisage Palestinian action in light of the waves of immigrants? What do you say to the Arabs? What is your message to the world? What do you say to the Soviets now?

['Arafat] I want to tell you just one thing. This emigration is not for Palestine or Jordan, but for Greater Israel. Can you see this 10 agora ['Arafat holds up a 10 agora coin, the picture of which is enlarged to fill the entire television screen] This coin was minted recently. Under the Israeli menorah, there is a map of Greater Israel. For several years, they put at the entrance to the Knesset a plaque reading "This is the land of Israel: From the Nile

to the Euphrates." They were advised to remove this plaque, but they have engraved this map on this coin under the menorah.

The Israeli finance minister then tells me: No, this is only a rock under the menorah. I have brought this AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee] document. ['Arafat holds a piece of paper showing a map, which is enlarged to fill the entire television screen. The picture of the map on the 10 agora coin is superimposed on this map to show that both maps are identical]

The AIPAC document shows this map of Greater Israel, which was published in GEO magazine on 19 February 1989 on page 109. It reads, verbatim: The real dimensions of Israel according to the current 1989 Israeli 10 agora coin. [previous sentence read by 'Arafat in English]

I say: Who is the Israeli finance minister trying to fool? Can anyone really fool us? No one can fool us. They should know that no one will be fooled by their lies. What is on this map?

[Al-Hattab] Medina.

['Arafat] The whole of Jordan, the whole of Lebanon, half of Syria, three quarters of Iraq, one third of Saudi Arabia, including Medina and Khaybar, and Sinai—the majority of Sinai. The majority of Sinai was introduced only after the Camp David accords, because, before Camp David, the map reached the Nile.

Hence, is this emigration for us, for you alone? It is an emigration affecting the entire region, to bring about Greater Israel from the Nile to the Euphrates. There will be 300,000 [immigrants] this year. They say 240,000 from the Soviet Union, 30,000 from East Europe, and something like 20,000-30,000 Falashas, who have begun to arrive on charter flights, right? In 10 years, how many will those 300,000 become? Three million, who will become four and a half million by natural growth. And, how many [Israelis] are there now? What are all those people for? For expansion.

I say that I am sounding the alarm. Therefore, my constant talks with my brothers the Arab leaders, the latest of which were with His Majesty King Husayn, center on the need to convene an Arab summit conference to face those challenges. This is a challenge. In addition to this, they insolently threaten us. We watch things there. We know everything in Israel. They know I know the details of what is taking place on their side. They are conducting training in the Negev on targets similar to ones in Iraq; they are conducting training on a military plan against Jordan. But, as for Lebanon, they call it no-man's land [preceding two words in English] and they say it must be annexed up to the Wadi al-Tim [name as heard], which is north of Sidon.

I am saying nothing new. Therefore, I called for an extraordinary summit conference...

[Al-Hattab, interrupting] What do you say to the Soviets?

['Arafat, completing his sentence]...because the Arab nation has to shoulder a pan-Arab task. But, as for our Soviet friends, we opened a dialogue with them the day after Malta. They talked about Helsinki and the right to emigrate. We said: OK. The fundamental legal basis of the world states that an individual's right ends when the right of another begins. Where are the rights of the Palestinian individual? Is this emigration not taking place at the expense of the Palestinian individual?

This is one point. The other point we told them was: You talk about human rights, but how can you allow a Soviet citizen, no matter whom he may be, to leave and confiscate his passport and give him a travel document valid for three months? It is against human rights to confiscate his passport.

Moreover, this is not emigration, but forced expulsion from one location to another. Those people who were sent to camps in Rome and Vienna were emigrants. The camps in Vienna have been closed, but the ones in Rome still exist. There are some 20,000 to 30,000 Soviet Jews demonstrating daily outside the U.S. Embassy in Rome. Why? Because they do not want to go to Israel. Now, after the agreement, they have discovered that 90 percent of those who leave the Soviet Union do not go on to Israel. Hence, the following process arose: Expulsion and transfer [preceding word in English] without a passport and with a one-way ticket [preceding two words in English], and the emigrant has no right to return. This is against human rights. This is against the Geneva Convention [preceding words in English]

Over 98 percent of the Soviets are Greek Orthodox, right? [sentence as heard] Only yesterday, they were given a gift by Sharon....

[Al-Hattab, interrupting] The attack against Patriarch Dhiodhoros.

['Arafat] Right. They attacked the patriarch and the priests and broke their crosses. I want to know where their anger is? If it was an article against the patriarch, what would have happened in the West? So, why do they remain silent when their patriarch has been beaten up? Is this acceptable? Or can those people do whatever they want? Are they allowed to commit crimes? Are they allowed to murder children and cause miscarriages in pregnant women with poison gas?

I am not the one who says they use poison gas. They say it is tear gas, but they are lying. Two medical teams—a Belgian and an American—have taken these bombs, which they throw from helicopters or sometimes fire from rifles, and analyzed them in Belgian and U.S. laboratories. They held news conferences on two separate occasions and said they contain internationally-prohibited gas, which has caused miscarriages in over 5,600 of our women.

We told the Soviets they should give them passports, but should not allow them to travel directly [to Israel]. We

are not against emigration. Canada is open for emigration, so let them go to Canada. Latin America is also open, so let them go there. The United States has, surprisingly and all of a sudden, begun to encourage Palestinians to travel there. Any Palestinians calling at any embassy....['Arafat changes thought] In the past, when we wanted to dispatch a student, he had to provide a good conduct certificate, a bank certificate, and a certificate from the government. Now the Palestinian student submits his passport and gets a five-year visa. This is happening at a time when Jews are not allowed to enter. What does this mean? There must be an agreement to send all emigrants to Israel. Is Australia not complaining of a population shortage ? Is Canada not complaining of a population shortage? Is Latin America not empty? Scandinavia is empty. All the Scandinavian countries are empty. There are only 4.5 million people in Norway. Let them go there. It has been proven that, if given the option, they would go there.

Polyakov has conveyed a special message to me from the Soviet leadership, stating that a decision will be issued to give passports to all Soviets, including Soviet Jews, and grant them the right to return. This is, by God, good. I thank them for responding to us, but this needs to be followed up.

You asked me about Havel. In fact, I consider this [visit to Prague] a step in the opposite direction. They thought, just like the African countries, that the socialist countries' recognition of them under pressures of the IMF, aid, and so forth would help them obtain aid via Israel. Well, look at the African states. They did the same, but most African states are going bankrupt. What happened in Zaire? What happened in the Ivory Coast? What happened in Cameroon? Do they not all have relations with Israel? They are suffering from stifling economic crises. Their recognition of Israel did not solve the problem. They thought it would, but we must now deal with the issue. We must know that when these peoples set out, they did so by imitating this blessed intifadah. They said the word and you saw that on television. They said "V" and in Arabic. Havel said: Yes, yes, we said intifadah while we were demonstrating. I told him: Did you not raise the "V" sign, which is my sign? He said yes. I told him you said intifadah in Arabic and I heard it on television. He said: Yes. Without hearing it, I am telling you we said intifadah, intifadah.

So, we should not think the change that has taken place is directed against us. It is true that the first wave has recognized Israel, but we must now deal with the new mentality. We have all the facts. In his dinner speech, Havel said: We will not allow this to happen because we cannot guarantee their security and allow our country to be a passageway, and we are against demographic change in the occupied Palestinian territories. This is a new position. But, brothers, can one hand clap? Go thou, and thy Lord, and fight ye two, while we sit here and watch [Koranic verse] will not work. The matter requires an Arab effort, brothers. Can I act alone? I have called, therefore, for an Arab summit. Today, I discussed this with some brothers in Jordan. We also discussed the need for joint action during a recent meeting with His Majesty King Husayn. I have heard that His Highness Crown Prince Hasan will attend an important academic meeting in the Soviet Union. This is an effort, but the Arab effort should be intensified as a whole. We also asked the eight-member committee to go to the Soviet Union.

[Al-Hattab] At the same time, there is an American effort related to the flood of settlement funds.

['Arafat] And they have increased them. Just imagine how this rich superpower is giving all the money to Israel while punishing the Palestinian people for following the path of peace. To punish us, it is reducing its share in the UNRWA budget by $18 million. Is this not shameful? They should be ashamed of it. After talk about the Iraqi al-'Abid missile, Rabin visited the United States and was paid $165 million to conduct studies on advanced missiles to counter the Iraqi missiles. President Saddam—and let all the Israelis hear me—did not make threats. He said: If they attack us in Iraq, we will reply. Do they want us to bow down? I would like to thank President Saddam in the name of the Arab nation for saying this. What do they want from us? Do they want peace or capitulation? We have offered them peace, the peace of the brave. I want to ask the Israeli citizen: Where is this Israeli leadership leading you? It is mobilizing and preparing you for war, war. It is also preparing 240 nuclear warheads, bacteriological and chemical bombs, conventional weapons, and missiles. What is it preparing you for? They are preparing for a new war, together with the additional 3 million [not further specified]. Does the Israeli citizen not know that the word blitzkrieg no longer exists in the Arabic dictionary? They wanted to finish us off in Beirut within three days. Blitzkriegs are over. Dayan's so-called six-day or six-hour wars are over. Consider that they fought for 88 days against the smallest Arab military force during the siege of Beirut. Such fighting is continuing in southern Lebanon by Lebanese and Palestinians against the continuing Israeli air and naval raids and bombardment with every type of weapon. Nevertheless, the people in southern Lebanon are still holding out. Wars have ended. So, what do they want, Mu'nis? This is the point. What do they want?

I would like to tell everyone in the Israeli community that we are offering peace; we, as Arabs, are offering you peace. The Palestinian peace initiative was adopted—and I do not say only accepted—by the Casablanca Arab summit. So this is an offer on behalf of the entire Arab nation. We invite them to an international conference, but they refuse; we invite them to accept a Namibia-style solution, but they refuse. So, I ask the Israeli citizen: What is the alternative to peace? It is war. And since there is no blitzkrieg, the war will be long, with destruction and catastrophes. I tell them: Let us make the peace of the brave for the sake of our children and yours.

[Al-Razzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, with your permission, most of our heroes in the occupied territories will see you on this program....

['Arafat, interrupting] The giants.

[Al-Razzaz] Yes, the giants. In your news conferences, speeches, and addresses, you always repeat very optimistic words. You often say that you see Jerusalem liberated imminently and that the independent Palestinian state is at hand.

['Arafat, interrupting] I say it is a stone's throw away.

[Al-Razzaz] Yes, a stone's throw away, thanks to the intifadah and the militant spirit of the heroes of the occupied territories. But what are the objective reasons and the political signs that give rise to such great optimism? Where does the intifadah really stand now? We know it was modest in the beginning, but now it shakes the entire world.

['Arafat] I want to say something. I am not a poet, although I like poetry very much. Nor I am a dreamer, although revolutionaries are usually dreamers; I have dreamt and will continue to dream of the independent state. But we make our dreams come true; we turn them into facts. Before the siege of Beirut, I said we were entering a dark tunnel. No one believed me: Are we really entering a dark tunnel, Abu-'Ammar, they would ask, surprised? I also talked about an accordion [preceding word in English] war, and they said: God, Abu-'Ammar likes music! I told them there would be an accordion siege. They did not believe me. I said we would enter a dark tunnel, but I added that I saw Jerusalem's walls before me. I said this in the PNC session here. In 1983, I said the children of the RPG [rocket propelled grenade] are embracing the children of the sacred stones. Did the intifadah start in 1987? No. As you know, there was the intifadah of Gaza. Sharon says he wants to crush the intifadah. But he tried for two years, constructing streets like the Champs Elysees—80 meters wide—inside the camp so his tanks could enter. It took him two and a half years to beat only 280 fedayeen. But now there are 800,000 fedayeen in Gaza and 950,000 in the West Bank. These are the stone generals—and I call them the new generals. Who can defeat them? He says I will crush them in a year and a half. On 19 December 1987, Rabin said at the Brookings Institute that "they are the mobs" [preceding quote in English] and that he would crush them in two days when he got back. I replied: You have two days, two weeks, two months, two years, and all time. We are now in the thirtieth month. Do you want us to erase all this and start counting again? I am ready to do it. This people, these new generals will continue, wave after wave. They have pledged to Abu-Jihad, Abu-al-Walid [Sa'd Sayil], 'Umar Qasim, Ghassan Kanafani, and all our hero martyrs that they will continue until the Palestinian flag is raised over the capital of Palestine, holy Jerusalem, God willing. So, I am proceeding on the basis of facts. We now exist on the political map, and those who exist on the political map, will, sooner or later, exist on the geographical map. This is the alphabet of politics. They have tried everything against us. They have killed children, beaten women, caused miscarriages, flung open their prisons, demolished houses, uprooted trees, desecrated Muslim and Christian sanctities, and turned cities into jails. In fact, in the Ansar 3 prison, for instance, inmates can organize classes, but in the cities they have been deprived of schools for three years. They have managed to establish the authority of the people. Some Israeli papers now say the Israelis rule only during the day and that the PLO rules at night. But I say, no, we rule some areas day and night.

[Al-Razzaz] Except for the main streets.

['Arafat] Only the main streets. But there are liberated people, and there are the good-offices committees, which are tasked with solving problems among the people. I would like to tell my brothers to increase the charity committees, because the people have problems. We must increase the number of charity committees. We must solve the people's problems so as not to have recourse to the police, or to the courts. We must solve the problems of the people by ourselves. The people have problems, and we want to give them comfort. I say this to the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI]. Let UNLI hear me. Let the popular committees and the strike force hear me. We want to give comfort to our people. We have great stamina, and the mountain will not be shaken by the wind.

[Al-Hattab] Support is necessary to continue the intifadah. What is your opinion of this support, Mr. President?

['Arafat] I thank all the Arab brothers who have made financial contributions. But the payments so far have not been sufficient for our needs. They promised me to pay $128 million in cash and a further $43 million. Not even a quarter of this sum was received, may God forgive them. However, I say thank you to those who paid, and I hope they will remember those heroes who are defending the western front in the midst of the fire; they need support. I tell my Arab brothers not to be tight-fisted. Our thanks are due to those who have paid.

[Masarwah] Mr. President, can we go back to politics again?

['Arafat] Yes, of course. But this is politics; money is politics; is economics not also politics? Some people say that politics is economics. Lack of money does not affect only us, but also Jordanian-Palestinian steadfastness.

[Masarwah] Mr. President, the media and political campaign against Iraq began a few months ago and has continued ever since. I believe—and I do not know if you agree with me—that Iraq is being attacked because it came victorious out of the war and now represents political and military weight in the Arab world....

['Arafat, interrupting] And technological weight. Let us thank this Arab knight, Saddam Husayn, for taking our Arab nation forward to this advanced technological level. We have broken the monopoly of technology, and this, in itself, is enough of which to be proud.

[Masarwah] The onslaught against Iraq has been launched, as I said, because of Iraq's technological and military power. We are talking about 1 million Iraqi soldiers coming out of a long, tough experience....

['Arafat, interrupting] The longest war, longer than World War II.

[Masarwah] Yes. Would you like to see a new eastern front?

['Arafat] I would like this. But these words may not find an echo with some people who do not wish it. That is why let us say Arab unity instead of an eastern front. This is so as not to attribute to ourselves big words from which the enemy may benefit.

[Al-Hattab] The Arab masses must also be mobilized.

['Arafat] Yes, Arab unity in the full sense of the word.

[Masarwah] Do you not think the presence of a force directly around Palestine...[changing thought] This scientific progress in Iraq and the readiness for confrontation that recently emerged as a reaction to the U.S. onslaught—that if you are preparing an Israeli attack against Iraq, we will react—has brought tension back to the region. Do you favor creating tension in the region, or would you rather see what the Americans call relaxation [preceeding word in English] and abandonment of the peace process [preceeding two words in English], as some brothers call it?

['Arafat] I would like to ask, how can one feel relaxed and comfortable surrounded by 240 nuclear warheads—12 warheads for each Arab capital? Sharon says Israel's arm can reach Pakistan, the heart of Africa, and Baku in the USSR. I ask our Arab nation: Who can sleep soundly in the face of this monster, which is preparing for the second round to make a reality of this map? [pointing at the map referred to earlier] We, therefore, have the right to defend ourselves.

The enemy does not accept a Palestinian peace plan, a UN peace initiative, a European peace initiative, a Euro-Soviet peace initiative proposed by Presidents Mitterrand and Gorbachev, a Nonaligned Movement peace plan, a Scandinavian peace plan, nor a peace plan proposed by the Socialist countries. OK, we tell them: Then let us follow the Namibian model. They do not accept this, either.

Hence, the enemy is preparing for war, and I say this to my Arab nation: Beware. God be my witness, I have delivered the message: Beware; never sleep easy. No one can sleep easy in the hyena's cave. Can anyone sleep easy in a hyena's cave? Our neighbor is not a hyena, but a monster with nuclear teeth.

[Masarwah] When do you expect the Arab summit to convene?

['Arafat] I told my Arab brothers—today, yesterday, the day before, and during my recent tour—that I am calling for an Arab summit. After I had spoken to President Saddam, he accepted. I begged him. I have no capital. Had I had a capital, I would have invited them to that capital....

[Masarwah, interrupting] All capitals are Palestinian.

['Arafat] Of course, God willing, until we return. I appealed to President Saddam to convene that summit in Iraq because the threats facing us are those of immigration and military threats against Iraq. He accepted, and I informed all Arab brothers of his decision. I also told them: I hope we can meet before Gorbachev and Bush meet on 30 May.

[Masarwah] Is it on 30 May?

['Arafat] 30 May.

[Al-Hattab] It is from 30 May to 3 June.

['Arafat] Yes. From 30 May to 3 June.

[Masarwah] It will be followed by a European summit.

['Arafat] Yes. There will be a European summit after that to transfer the EEC chairmanship....

[Masarwah, interrupting] And another Helsinki conference.

['Arafat] Yes, another Helsinki conference. So, what are we going to do as Arabs? I have called, therefore, for convening the Arab summit before Gorbachev and Bush meet.

[Masarwah] We were talking to a Jordanian politician about this today. He said some Arabs believe the summit should not be held before the Gorbachev-Bush summit, so we know what they want us to do.

['Arafat] Does this mean we have to do what they tell us? Should we not formulate a plan and force it on them?

[Masarwah] Are you optimistic, Mr. President?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly. I am very hopeful that my brothers the Arab leaders will agree to meet in a summit as soon as possible.

[Al-Razzaz] Brother Abu-'Ammar, please allow me to ask you this: In your angry speech at the Arab League Headquarters in Cairo during the Palestinian cultural days, you threatened to retract the concessions, and I put the word in quotes, made at the Algiers [PNC] session....

['Arafat, interrupting] No, I have not made concessions...

[Al-Razzaz, interrupting] Please allow me to finish my question. You threatened to retract if the United States

continues its procrastination, evasiveness, and conspiracies against the Palestinian people's cause. Is this option still conceivable—that is to turn the tables?

['Arafat] Let me say something: The PNC is scheduled to meet within a few months. Am I not supposed to tell you: This is what I have done? Am I not supposed to say this to my Arab nation and representatives of the Palestinian people? I have told them [not further identified] that the Palestinian people have the right to make the appropriate decision, including to tell me: Step aside, Abu-'Ammar.

Anyway, I will submit my report and my resignation, because this is democracy. One and a half years after Reagan's rule and one and a half years after he presented his peace initiative, the Palestinian people have the right to say there is no response; neither a U.S. nor an Israeli response. [sentence as heard] They must study all the facts and results and come up with something new, or tell me: step aside Abu-'Ammar. I will welcome it if they said it to me.

It is impossible for me to participate in deceiving my people. The truth, the whole truth, should be told to the masses. We have made no concessions. Peace is not a concession.

[Masarwah] Peace is victory.

['Arafat] The weak are incapable of making peace. Only the strong can make peace. Moreover, am I preventing anyone from liberation, brother Mu'nis? Am I preventing anyone from liberating Palestine? Have I prevented the armies from moving? Instead of going to Afghanistan, why do they not come here to liberate? Am I preventing them? Have I prevented anyone? I held down three quarters of the Israeli Army for 88 days in Beirut. I recall that martyr 'Abd-al-Nasir told me: Abu-'Ammar, I want you to hold down a brigade. I remembered him during the siege of Beirut in 1982. I was holding down 169,000 soldiers and the entire Air Force and Navy. Am I preventing anyone from liberating it [Palestine]? We are trying to make the peace of the brave, as Salah-al-Din concluded the Ramla peace, by maintaining the Palestinian identity. The weak cannot make peace. Anyone can make war, but it is very difficult to make peace. Let the Israelis hear when I say their present leaders do not want peace because none of them is brave. There is no Charles de Gaulle, de Klerk, or Ian Smith among them. I told them: Let us imitate Namibia. Namibia is a U.S. agreement under UN sponsorship. [sentence as heard] Let us do it like Namibia. No, this is the land of Greater Israel, Judaea and Samaria. Is this not what the so-called Shamir regime is saying?

[Al-Hattab] Sir, allow me to return to the Palestinian peace initiative. Actually, it has had a great impact on the structure of Israeli political society, the average Israeli individual, and on Israeli decisionmakers. For the first time, an Israeli government collapsed under a Palestinian peace initiative, and a brave decision on this became very hard for them to make. In fact, this enabled you to see the map at a close range. You are familiar with the details.

['Arafat] Even the most minute details.

[Al-Hattab] We also know some senior Israeli politicians and decisionmakers are trying to make contacts to see the Palestinian viewpoint, which either negatively or positively influences this structure. This enables you to read the map of Israeli political action in the light of the parallel or intersecting forces in the Likud, Labor, and Arab parties, and how they interact within the political structure in the Knesset.

['Arafat] Do not forget the rabbis. A 96-year-old rabbi decides matters by telephone from New York.

[Al-Hattab] Israeli peace forces, as well as Israeli extremist forces, exist. All these forces are present. How do you view the map of action in the territories? For the first time, Palestinian policy has penetrated and affected with the Israeli structure and has changed the balance of these forces. All of Israel used to be put in one scale of the balance. Now, your message was there should be work done within this body so the Palestinian viewpoint can find a place in it. How do you view the political scene now and how will you deal with new developments? Now, the structure is brittle or in a state of....

['Arafat, interrupting] I would like to say something. We must realize that, according to the latest poll before the fall of the government, 56 percent of the Israeli people voted for peace and reconciliation. This is an important point. Thus, there is a change in the Israeli body. This is true, but in contrast, the extremist forces became more extreme. They did not increase in number, but became more extreme. Do not forget, however, that the intifadah and the enlightened political program have caused a rift in the highest echelons, at the top of the pyramid, in the Israeli Government. For the first time in the history of Israeli governments, a government has fallen. This should be taken into consideration. Begin resigned only when he realized the magnitude of his losses in the Beirut siege. Hence, this happened for the first time. The United States does not want a government that will make peace. President Bush has stated the Israeli occupation should end and Baker has said Israel should forget its dream of Greater Israel. There are circles within the U.S. Administration which are more Likudist than the Likud. They are more extremist than Sharon.

[Al-Hattab] At the State Department.

['Arafat] At the State Department. I do not want to mention them by name. I know the five of them. We are not living in palaces, brother Tariq. We know everything.

[Masarwah] Those are Kissinger's men, Sir.

['Arafat] Also Kissinger's men in the U.S. Administration. They do not want [a government that makes peace].

Therefore, I would like to ask: Are the 10 points Egyptian? They are Egyptian- American points, which were supported by the whole world. The Israeli Cabinet was divided six to six. Why did the United States support the six who opposed the 10 points? I am entitled to ask why the United States supported the six who opposed them. It is because it does not want a solution. It wants to give Shamir, Sharon, or others more time. Time will be taken up to deceive the intifadah. This is because they want us to be weak. They are attacking Iraq because it is on the side of the Palestinian revolution and both Palestinians and Jordanians. They want us to be naked—without the intifadah, Arab strength, financial power, or news media so we will be forced to capitulate. None of us will sign a capitulation. If any of them think they can find an Arab group or leader anywhere who would do so, they should know there is no quisling [preceding word in English as heard] among the Palestinian people. No one in the Arab nation will sign a surrender to them. As I have told you, the intifadah will continue, God willing, together with Fatah, Hamas, Jihad, the Popular Front, the Democratic Front, the Communists, the Struggle Front, the Arab Front, the Palestine Liberation Front, and all the popular organizations. Children, women, and all the people are resisting. These are the victory makers. They are the ones who will score a victory in the occupied territory similar to that of al-Faw. This is the cooperation that we ought to see. The leadership is endowed with mental perception, not mere eyesight.

['Arafat continues] Here, I must once again tell my kinfolk, brothers, and beloved ones: This unity is not only the unity of mass organizations, but the unity of the entire people—Christians and Muslims. This magnificent unity is emerging among the people of Bethlehem, Bayt Sahur, and Jerusalem. And, the people of the land of endurance [Jordan] are responding to, and are in harmony with those people. I tell them: You are not alone. The world is changing. It was no coincidence the PLO was able to to weave all these relationships together. In less than one month, I have traveled from Namibia, to India, Czechoslovakia, Paris, the Vatican, Rome, the Jerusalem committee—which met and issued a strong communique—to the Nonaligned Movement's nine-member committee, and the Arab foreign ministers' meeting.

This is not accidental, nor is it done for the sake of Yasir 'Arafat—no, it is done because there is a change and new momentum. So I say there is considerable confidence, and whoever exists on the political map will exist on the geographic map. As I have seen the dark tunnel in the past, now I can see the flag hoisted by a boy or a girl of this giant people.

[Masarwah] Mr. President: One never tires of meeting with you, or of hearing this great forbearance and spirit that never declines, but the time for the program is nearly....

['Arafat, interrupting] But, I want to say one word to my people.

[Masarwah] Please do.

['Arafat] I tell them: Beware the enemy's conspiracies—this is the main thing. We must rise above our differences and difficulties and lick our wounds, because we must overcome the enemy's plots. I urge them in the name of Abu-Jihad's blood; for the sake of the blood of our martyrs; for the sake of the blood of the martyred Palestinian child, woman, and fighter; and for the sake of the pain of the wounded and the suffering of the detainees in their jails—I urge them to overcome all those conspiracies and not do anything without a decision. Even the agent, we must win him over. I want to win over people, not lose them. I also want to unite people, not divide them.

I tell them that I, from Amman, in the hills from which we see Jerusalem, my heart—and the heart of my brother, His Majesty King Husayn—and the heart of every child in the smallest tribe in East Jordan, long for Jerusalem. East and west of the Jordan are one family. Here, they are the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and there they are the people of Palestine. However, we have always been, historically, one people with the same aspirations. God willing, we will pray in Jerusalem.

They see that day as a far-off event, but we see it quite near. [Koranic verse] This is a promise. To enter your mosque as they had entered it before, and to visit with destruction all that fell into their power. [Koranic verse] This is a promise, brothers. The faithful must have the faith of old men, and I have the faith of old men. [laughing]

[Al-Hattab] But, faith needs action.

['Arafat] Of course, it is not just a faith that we fabricate and by which we make fatwas [religious ruling] to win support here or there, but the faith of jihad so we can hoist the flag—the flag of our Arab nation—over Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblas, the third holiest shrine in Islam, the place from which Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven, and the city of Jesus, may God bless them both.

[Masarwah] Thank you, Mr. President. God's blessings be upon you.

Spokesman Says House Resolution 'Irresponsible'

JN2604202390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1827 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The PLO has strongly condemned the U.S. House of Representatives resolution recognizing holy Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity.

A Palestinian information spokesman described the resolution as an irresponsible act and a blow to the U.S. Congress' ability to advance the Middle East peace process.

The Palestinian information spokesman added that this resolution harms the credibility of the U.S. legislative bodies and their ability to play a positive role in the Mideast peace process.

Delegate Appeals to UN on Jerusalem Hostel

JN2604204090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1827 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The state of Palestine has warned the United Nations and the UN Security Council against being preoccupied with procedural issues and overlooking the Zionist entity's violations of international conventions, considering that this entity does not honor international resolutions.

Palestinian UN delegate brother Zuhdi al-Tarazi demanded in a message sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar that immediate action and tangible measures be taken to ensure respect for the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention in light of the recent developments represented by the occupation by Zionist settlers of Saint John's Hospice, which belongs to the Orthodox Patriarchate in the Christian quarter in holy Jerusalem, and to guarantee their immediate eviction from this building.

The message said that the international community, particularly the members of the UN Security Council, are bound by law to ensure respect for the Geneva convention and to make the Israeli entity comply with international obligations.

PLO's Sha'th Interviewed on Peace Prospects

PM2504112190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Apr 90 p 3

[Unattributed interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] There are many initiatives on the table of the U.S.-Egyptian-Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. How do you see the future of these initiatives, and what is the link between them and the intifadah?

[Sha'th] The Palestinian side, backed by Egypt, which has presented a peace plan that cannot be rejected, has shown unquestionable flexibility. But the Israeli intransigence, the lack of real U.S. pressure, and the insistence on dealing with the ruling coalition led by Likud are leading us into an impasse. The United States is trying to keep a slender thread of hope by insisting on convening a tripartite meeting in Washington in a bid to arrive at the possibility of convening a Palestinian-Israeli meeting. It will be clear by the end of next month whether that glimmer of hope will lead to something.

For its part, the PLO is wasting no opportunity to achieve success. The intifadah is continuing, escalating, and creating explosive situations inside Israel, pushing the Israeli peace camp to make swift moves.

European action, too, is exerting pressure for the convening of an international conference. It is now the Arab states' turn to make the necessary move to back the intifadah and exert pressure to bring about effective moves on the international scene.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Are there specific conditions for making these initiatives a success?

[Sha'th] The conditions for success are swift moves on the Israeli scene: The march which took place in Jerusalem this year was very successful and will be repeated shortly, and three marches will head for Egypt from Israel to meet with PLO leaders and abort the Israeli law banning talks with it. This is in addition to the continuing European moves.

Then Arab action, which is the major factor needed to bolster the peace process and put pressure on the United States, remains a basis for reactivating Israel. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Undoubtedly the changes taking place in East Europe and the Soviet Union will have a great impact on the world as a whole, especially the Palestinian issue.

[Sha'th] In the short term the impact is negative, because immigration to Israel will increase. The United States, which insisted on opening the door of emigration for Soviet Jews, has closed its doors to them in order to force them to immigrate to Israel. Then Shamir spoke of the need for a greater Israel to accommodate them. Some people in Israel expect 300,000 emigres to settle in the West Bank over the next three years—a serious matter and a real threat to the Arab region as a whole.

The Soviet Union is distracted from the priority of achieving peace in the Arab region, and West Europe is preoccupied with what is happening in East Europe, which has eclipsed news of the intifadah and reduced European pressure aimed at boosting the peace process in the Middle East. U.S. and European economic aid has been diverted to East Europe, so Egypt, Jordan, and other Arab states will be affected. This is clear.

Regarding the long term, we expect matters to change, and when stability is restored in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, priority will be given to peace in the Middle East, on the grounds this is a strategic necessity, because it is Europe's southern flank and both share the Mediterranean Sea. Besides, a united Europe will enhance its independence from U.S. and Soviet decisionmaking and create pluralism at the international level—a pluralism that is in our interests, because it will break the U.S. monopoly and hegemony in our region. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Observers expected the restoration of Syrian-Egyptian relations to affect Syrian-PLO relations. To what extent have the efforts to resolve the Syrian-Palestinian dispute succeeded?

[Sha'th] Tension between the PLO and Syria has decreased. But it seems Syria's main priority is resolving the Lebanese problem. So there is no specific date or plan for the restoration of Palestinian-Syrian relations. And I am convinced the restoration of Egyptian-Syrian relations will have a positive impact. The Syrians do not have specific ideas on the resumption of these relations.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] If the present peace proposals fail, what will be the alternative to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict?

[Sha'th] I believe the alternative to a just peace based on a Palestinian state, the Palestinian people's rights, and security for all states in the region is an Arab-Israeli war, because Israel is not only fighting the intifadah, but also has ballistic, nuclear, and chemical weapons. There is an arms race in the region. Six Arab states now possess ballistic and chemical weapons, and unless a just peace is achieved an armed confrontation is very likely to take place.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] And do you think Israel would risk entering a war with the Arab states?

[Sha'th] There is an adventurist tendency in Israeli policy which believes that a lightning attack would spare Israel the need to embark on an essential but difficult peace process. We in the Arab region always must be ready for that possibility.

The recent past is not reassuring for Israel: In its wars in Sinai and south Lebanon, it had to withdraw and return to its borders. So the military and human balances are not in Israel's favor.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What is the PLO dissident group's role now, and where do they fit in the intifadah?

[Sha'th] The role of these groups has ended. They are worthless, especially as Syria and Libya are heading for reconciliation. [passage omitted]

Correspondent Questions Sincerity of Iraqi Pledge

JN2604202090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Dispatch by "Al-Quds Radio special correspondent in Palestine"]

[Excerpts] From Palestine to our beloved kin in the diaspora: We wish you many happy returns of 'Id al-Fitr. From the beating heart of Palestine we wish you many happy returns. From the stone-throwing heroes and the molotov cocktail heroes, from the mothers of the martyrs and from the Zionist detention camps, we say many happy returns. [passage omitted]

Our beloved kin, please forgive my anger and my choice of words: Some may say they are obscene. That is all right. Is there anything more obscene than our conditions? Al-Quds, the princess of towns, to which Arabs everywhere sing praise, is being Judaized; its people expelled; its holy places desecrated. The holy mosque and the Dome of the Rock are forbidden to their owners. Is there anything more obscene than this?

Our beloved kin, let me be brief. We in Palestine are not sad because of this official and popular Arab silence. This is because we are certain the sun of freedom will soon shine. The Arab and Islamic day will come, bringing with it the winds of change. However, we sometimes are pained because of what we hear outside Palestine. We are pained by what we see outside Palestine. We are pained by the theatrics of democracy in one of the Arab capitals. We are pained because these are being placed under the umbrella of the authorities. We are perfectly certain this democracy is false and is a temporary release of gas for a certain time, which will not take long.

We are not pained that some of the Camp David regime's writers attack some of the figures in the Palestinian leadership, because we are not surprised. We know if one submits once, he will become accustomed to submission. However, we are pained when we see a Zionist passing from the Rafah border post within minutes while the Palestinian Arab is detained at the same post for hours and hours. We are pained when we see the Zionists reveling and enjoying themselves in Cairo, while Cairo's doors are closed to Palestinians.

Beloved kinfolk outside Palestine, we wish you many happy returns. We are greatly pained when we hear someone threatening to burn half of Israel if his Arab country or any other Arab state is exposed to an aggression by the Zionist enemy. We are indeed saddened and pained. Is Palestine not Arab? Is the holy of holies, the site of the holy mosque, not an Arab, Islamic country? Is southern Lebanon not an Arab land?

We are really pained when we hear and see these cartoon heroes, threatening and sabre rattling, while they are really the opposite of what they claim to be.

Our beloved kinfolk outside Palestine: We are not pained when we see some official Palestinian leaders advising us to return to Camp David. We are not pained when we see them repeating al-Sadat's slogans and the peace of the brave phrase. We are sorry for them and for the capitulationist forum for which they are heading.

Our kinfolk outside Palestine. Today, on Thursday, the first of Shawwal, the first day of 'Id al-Fitr, I wish you many happy returns. Palestine and its people are in good condition. We pledge to you that we will remain sincere to the charter. Together on the road to liberating the land and man.

'Arafat on 'Urgent Need' For Intifadah Support

JN2104150790 Baghdad INA in English 1415 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 21, INA—The Follow-up Committee emanating from the Arab People's Front in Support of the Palestinian Uprising, has held a meeting to discuss the organization system of the front, preparing the major axes of its charter and its work program in the forthcoming phase.

The meeting has been attended by Mr Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and Mr Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the regional leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, in charge of its External Relations Bureau.

Mr Jasim has confirmed the significance of holding the meeting which is coinciding with the acute, dangerous and serious challenges faced by the Arab nation, which are targetted at Iraq as being in a state of tangible material renaissance in service of the Arab nation and the Palestinian issue in particular.

He has said it has been needed very much that the Arab People's Front in Support of the Palestinian Uprising should have an action programme for future securing of rapid action, owing to escalation of the uprising and continuity of the Jewish emigration towards occupied Palestine.

He said that matter necessitated more activation of Arab energies and Palestinian capabilities to counter those grave changeables.

Mr Latif Nusayyif Jasim expressed the Iraq's appreciation of the Arab genuine solidarity with Iraq in facing the Zionist-imperialist challenges. He further said "the genuine solidarity seen on the Arab arena makes us be satisfied over the future."

Member of the Regional Leadership of the party has also confirmed that Iraq will violently retaliate for any Zionist aggression, bringing back to minds a formation [as received] of President Saddam Husayn that if Iraq entered the battle it will not make it a battle of days or moments or hours but will be a long battle so that thunder of guns could reach the remotest village and town in the Arab homeland.

Mr Jasim also touched upon the hostile media campaign being led by the imperialist and Zionist circles against Iraq saying all those outcries would not affect Iraq because it had stimulated the Arabs and their dignity and created a state of high solidarity, confirming that the coming period would witness solidarity of higher levels with Iraq.

President Yasir 'Arafat of the State of Palestine confirmed in an address to the committee's meeting that there was an urgent need for efforts of the Arab people's front to support the Palestinian uprising owing to the prominent role it was undertaking in supporting and backing up the uprising, confirming that any action carried out by the front would not be an alternate of any Arab solidarity effort.

During the meeting, attended by representatives of six Arab countries, namely, Iraq, Egypt, Libya, Algeria, Yemen, in addition to Palestine Liberation Organization, the regional leadership of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and Palestine ambassador in Baghdad, the participants have laid the organizational system of the Arab People's Front in Support of the Palestinian Uprising and prepared the essential axes for charter and work program of the front.

It has been decided that the final formula of these resolutions will be referred to the coming meeting of the front due to be held on the sidelines of the Arab popular conference in Baghdad on the 7th of May.

It is to be recalled that the Arab People's Front in Support of the Palestinian Uprising was founded in Baghdad late last year in response to call by the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party and Palestine Liberation Organization in order to achieve larger forms of solidarity and support and political, information and material backing to the Palestinian uprising.

The front is composed of representatives from Iraq, Palestine Liberation Organization, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait in addition to 21 Arab political parties and popular and professional organizations.

Egypt

Mubarak Message to Bush on Jerusalem Detailed

JN2604135290 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Informed political sources in Cairo have confirmed that the message sent by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to U.S. President George Bush yesterday contains explicit criticism of the U.S. House of Representatives resolution considering Jerusalem the undivided capital of Israel. President Mubarak expressed in his message deep concern over the evil consequences that might affect the peace process if the U.S. Administration decides to recognize Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the Hebrew state.

President Mubarak noted in his message the following important points:

1. The U.S. House of Representatives resolution violates all international charters and norms to this effect.

2. The resolution might be part of a new Israeli scheme to empty the occupied territory of its inhabitants in order to settle Jewish emigrants in their place.

3. The resolution will have negative impact on the Arab position toward relations with the U.S. Administration, particularly if it endorses this resolution.

4. The resolution will create further unrest in the region and Egypt expects desperate reactions to it.

5. The resolution might prompt Egypt and the Arabs to reconsider the entire peace process.

6. The resolution means a stoppage in current efforts to achieve a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Mubarak asked the U.S. Administration to adopt a clear and frank position on the issue of Jerusalem and the Palestinian people's political rights. The Egyptian president expressed his hope that the U.S. Administration would make such a statement before the coming Arab summit.

In addition, the Egyptian president asked the U.S. Government to put pressure on Israel to end its settlement plans and repressive measures in the occupied territory.

The Egyptian president's message also concerns regional and international contacts on the Egyptian proposal to dismantle weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. He called for putting pressure on Israel to accept this proposal.

AL-AKHBAR Criticizes U.S. House Resolution

NC2704060790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2031 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper has asserted that by passing a resolution considering Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the U.S. House of Representatives seeks to prolong the tension and the explosive situation in one of the world's most strategic regions. Also, the paper said, the House of Representatives wants to risk possible disturbances and bloody conflicts in this region, and the first victim will be the large U.S. interests.

In its editorial in Friday's [26 April] edition, the paper says that the insistence of the congressmen and senators who represent the American people on favoring their own and personal interests over those of their country and the interest of peace, which all countries seek, disgraces them and reveals a shameful fact: that these deputies and senators have become slaves to their greed and to the various funds and aid they receive from Zionist groups. Also, it notes, these representatives try to please the Zionist groups any way they can, even if such means violate all laws that are respected by the international community.

The paper notes the communique Egypt that issued, expressing its concern about the U.S. House of Representatives' resolution and emphasizing that this resolution does not serve peace and that it violates international laws and UN and UN Security Council resolutions regarding Jerusalem. Furthermore, this resolution contradicts basic United States official policy and further complicates matters in the Middle East.

Syrian Envoy Previews Mubarak-Al-Asad Meeting

NC2604131590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—'Isat Darwish, new Syrian ambassador in Cairo, has praised President Mubarak's practical mental approach and his superior ability for the objective analysis of events. On his impression after presenting his credentials to President Mubarak early this week as Syria's fist ambassador here in 13 years, Darwish said: I felt very much optimistic, and I believe our peoples in Egypt, in Syria, and in the remaining Arab states will be satisfied by the tangible results that will emerge from the coming meeting between Presidents Husni Mubarak and Hafiz al-Asad, which will be held soon.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, Ambassador Darwish added that he had listened with full respect to President Mubarak's views on the future of the Egyptian-Syrian relations and on the results he expects from his meeting with President al-Asad. I sensed in his words the deep friendship that links him to President al-Asad, as comrades-in-arms who played a prominent role in achieving the great Ramadan [October] victory, he added. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Darwish said his task as ambassador to Egypt is to work diligently to restore the vigor and warmth to bilateral relations between the two countries and to consolidate and strengthen the existing ties of friendship and amity between the two peoples, noting that these ties are as uninterrupted as the course of history.

Regarding the topics expected to be raised during the upcoming Egyptian-Syrian summit, Ambassador Darwish said the situation in the region in general and the intra-Arab affairs will head the list of topics to be discussed during the summit. The discussion will also center on the developments in the Arab and international levels, particulary after the door of emigration by Soviet Jews into the occupied Arab territories has been opened and after Israel has refused to respond to the peace efforts, as well as prospects for various fields of cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Arab cooperation councils that currently exist and the possibility of Syria's joining any of these groupings, Ambassador Darwish said such possibility depends on circumstances and future developments. He added: It is true we are outside these groupings at the moment, but we are cooperating with the Arab countries as if we were a member of them.

Asked if Syria intends to join the peace process in the Middle Eastt, he said: We desire a just and durable peace through convening an international conference attended by the Security Council permanent members and all the disputing parties in the region, including the PLO.

In response to a question on the nature of the Syrian-Palestinian relations at present in view of the current tension between the two sides, Ambassador Darwish said we hope the two sides will reach a common vision on the issue of peace through the international conference. He noted that the difference in views between the two sides is over what he called the PLO's unilateral view and stand on the peace issue. He noted, however, that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' have met recently. [passage omitted]

Asked on democracy and partisan pluralism in Syria, the Syrian ambassador said the National Progressive Front under the Ba'th Party comprises several parties: The Arab Socialist Union, the Communist Party, the Socialist Unionist Movement, the Arab Socialist Movement, the Arab Unionist Democratic Party, and several other national independent factions. He added that there are no religious organizations in Syria and that with the exception of the incidents in the seventies that were financed from abroad, we have no extremist religious currents. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Darwish said that intensive oil exploration activity is under way in Syria, adding that 400,000 oil barrels per day are being produced and that natural gas has been discovered in commercial quantities, thus heralding a promising future.

The Syrian ambassador said that Syria's foreign debts amount to $7 billion, in addition to the military debts, but noted that the Syrian economy is getting better after the government had taken measures to cut back expenditures, improve management, seek self-reliance to replace imported commodities with local products, boost agricultural exports, and seek more investments in the public, private, and joint sectors. However, he added, the flow of Arab invesment capital into Syria is extremely limited. [passage omitted]

Fatah Holds U.S. Responsible for 'Massacres'

NC2604210990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1919 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Apr (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, the Fatah Movement's representative in Cairo, has condemned the Israeli occupation forces' massacre of the Palestinian people in Jabalyah in the Gaza Strip today, in which two Palestinians were killed and approximately 110 wounded.

In a statement to MENA, al-Qidrah held the United States responsible the massacres of civilians in the occupied Palestinian territories and the desecration of holy places because of the encouragement it gives to Israel by protecting it from international condemnation.

He urged the international community, the United Nations, and European countries to move quickly to establish international supervision of the occupied territories and put an end to all Israeli violations.

Three Killed as Asyut Police, Marchers Clash

NC2604142390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Asyut, 26 Apr (MENA)—Three people were killed and 23 others, including a child, were wounded in a clash with police forces in Manfalut following the 'Id al-Fitr prayers. Some 400 citizens had assembled in the center of Manfalut and began marching in a parade traditionally known as the bearers parade [masirat al-mahmal] through the city streets. The parade was accompanied by certain excesses, including attacks on shops and property.

The security organs, in cooperation with popular and political organs in the Governorate of Asyut, decided that such a parade could not continue as it was not in harmony with proper religious ceremonies and most of the participants were drug addicts and other irresponsible riffraff. The security forces confronted the marchers and tried to prevent them from continuing their march. However the marchers challenged the police with sticks and stones and insisted on completing the parade.

The police forces warned the marchers several times over loudspeakers, but they insisted on going ahead with the march and fired live ammunition at the policemen.

The marchers burned three pharmacies and a number of shops and attempted to loot some material from some shops. The security forces had to deal with them to restore order. Twenty-three of the marchers were injured and three were killed. The dead are Muhammad Salih al-Shuqayri, Salah 'Abd-al-Hamid Hamid, and 'Atiyah al-Jammal.

Public Attorney 'Abd al-'Aziz Mukhtar from the prosecutor's office has opened an investigation into the incident. Asyut Governor Hasan al-Alfi and Security Chief Major General Mahmud al-Fakharani inspected the site of the incident. Al-Fakharani made a statement saying that the situation has been brought under control and calm has been restored.

Governor Disavows Islamic Role

NC2604144890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1337 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Asyut, 26 Apr (MENA)—Asyut Governor Hasan al-Alfi has said that Islamic groups took no part in the incidents which occurred in Manfalut today.

The governor said that the decision to ban parades was made at the recommendation of the local popular council of Markaz Manfalut and is to the benefit of all citizens. He added that all the popular and political organs and the leading families in Manfalut have denounced the incidents which were instigated by devious elements.

Libya

Commentary Condemns Congress Decision on Jerusalem

LD2604105990 Tripoli JANA in English 0815 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Commentary by JANA political editor—all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 26, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The U.S. House of Representatives declared its recognition of occupied Jerusalem as permanent capital for the Zionist enemy in confirmation of a resolution taken previously by the U.S. Senate in this respect.

JANA's political editor commented on this recognition by saying: 'The decision of the U.S. House of Representatives with regards to its recognition of Jerusalem as capital for the Zionist entity is considered as an endorsement of a resolution taken previously by the U.S. [word indistinct] confirming the American defiance of the feelings of Arabs and Muslims in general and international and regional organizations which have denounced the previous Senate resolution.

[Word indistinct] is considered an assertion of the U.S. disregard to the Arab, Islamic and world public opinion towards the Arab-Zionist conflict and a humiliating submission for [as received] the Zionist lobby inside the U.S.A. He pointed out that such resolution is a flagrant aggression against the sacred holy places and sites of Muslims and an implementation of the Zionist scheme on the land of Islam and Muslims and the part of a tenth crusade being [word indistinct] the U.S. administration in coordination with world Zionism.

He said: 'This resolution expresses a Nazi, Fascist hostility full of hatred embodied by the U.S. behaviour towards Arabs and Muslims in particular. It asserts its continued adoption of the stances standing by the Zionist entity and insisting upon them and to link the U.S. policy to the goals of this entity'. He asserted the lack of seriousness by America in its search for stability and security anywhere in the world. On top of this, the resolution is considered a breach of international laws and contradicts the resolutions taken by the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council with regard to the city of Arab and Muslim Jerusalem...It is in contradiction with international norms and acknowledged political procedures including the behaviour of the U.S. administration itself'.

The editor pointed out that at the time we are condemning strongly this resolution and this regard for the feelings of Islam and Muslims and the working of the international and regional decision. We call upon Arab and Islamic national governments to stand seriously, strongly and bravely against this resolution and this tyrannical line taken by the U.S. Administration against Islam and Muslims, and to confront with all [word indistinct] the tyranny to its people who have been bunded by Zionist fanaticism and misinformation so that rightness ascends above all and those who ignore the rights of nations should know when things turn against them.

We also call upon the free people of the world and the international and regional organization to confront this American-Zionist disregard for international resolutions and laws taken and endorsed by the international community in general and the need to look for a successful means to impose the respect for international resolutions and laws upon all'.

JANA's political editor concluded his commentary by saying: 'We confirm to America and to Zionism that such decisions will only make our Arab and Islamic nation more determined and insistent to cling to their full rights which leave no room for doubting them in order to fully liberate the land of Palestine from the sea to the river and from south to south. Also such resolutions only increase the exposure and unveiling of the truth about Zionist America and its intentions towards the Arab and Islamic nation to those who as yet did not learn the lessons from them'.

Official Denies Involvement in Liberian Rebellion

LD2704104590 Tripoli JANA in English 0900 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Tripoli, 27 al-Tayr [April] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An official source at People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau stated the following:

News reported [a] statement by President Samuel Doe of the Republic of Liberia pointing out to a claim relation existing between Great Jamahiriya and the rebel movement which have grown in scale against his rule... It seems that the Liberian president, following the growing of the rebel movement and his [word indistinct] control it, has started to look for external reasons and elements to mislead the public opinion in his country and outside it that they were behind such growing movement and to salvage his rule from crumbling which is an old and ancient political trick which cannot deceive anyone anymore.

The source concluded the statement by saying:

'The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, as it condemns the statements of the Liberian president, decisively rejects their content and the false accusations and reaffirms once more that the policy of the Great Jamahiriyah towards the African countries is based upon constructive cooperation with those countries, respect of their sovereignty and their internal affairs, and it has fully adhered to such policy whether within the framework of the Organization of African Unity or on the bilateral level.'

Morocco

New Weekly Cultural Magazine To Be Published

LD2604231490 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Rabat, 26 Apr 1990, MAP—The Moroccan press has been reinforced by the publication of a new Moroccan magazine for information, culture, entertainment, and for supplying services and advice. The title of the new magazine is WEEKEND.

This weekly magazine, founded by the journalist 'Ali Hassan, is published on 16-medium size pages and aims at supplying the reader with useful information services. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Military Court Judgements in Coup Trial Approved

EA2604110590 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2245 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. [passage omitted] In continuation of the judgments of the military high courts, the chairman of the Revoluion Command Council, defense minister, and Commander in chief of the Armed Forces has approved the judgments issued on the rights of the officers who took part in the attempt to seize power by force. The judgments were as follows:

Staff Colonel Siddiq Muhajir Muhammadayn—freed;

Staff Colonel Muhammad 'Uthman Muhammad Fadl—freed;

Staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Salam Hasan Sulayman—freed;

Major Ahmad Babikr al-Tijani—freed;

First Lieutenant Hasanayn Mustafa Hasanayn—freed;

Lieutenant 'Umar 'Uthman Muhammad 'Awad al-Karim—freed;

Lieutenant Colonel Mu'tasim Babikr Jibril—dismissed from duty;

Major Sid Ahmad al-Balul—dismissed from duty;

Major Muhammad Idam Mahmud—stripped of his rank, dismissed from duty, and imprisoned for three years;

Major Hamid 'Ali Sulayman—stripped of his rank, dismissed from duty, and imprisoned for 10 years;

Captain Isam Mustafa—stripped of his rank, dismissed from duty, and imprisoned for three years:

Captain Muhammad al-Hadi Alias—stripped of his rank, dismissed from duty, and imprisoned for 15 years;

Captain Ibrahim Khalifah Muzamil—dismissed from duty;

Captain al-Amin 'Abd al-Qadir Da'ud—dismissed from duty.

The courts will continue with their duties of trying the remnants of the coup participants, and we shall furnish our public with the details of the judgements as soon as they are issued.

God is great. Glory to the Sudan. Victory is certain for our Armed Forces.

Al-Bashir Discusses Coup Attempt at Rally

EA2604122290 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 25 April (SUNA)—Revolution Command Council chairman Lt-Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said the revolution will continue expanding and establishing more popular defence forces. Addressing a mass rally in support of the revolution after the failure of the coup attempt, Monday [23 April] Gen. al-Bashir said the revolution will no more tolerate or forgive its enemies.

Gen. al-Bashir said the plotters had abused the holy month of Ramadan and tried to carry out their plot. Gen. al-Bashir told the crowd that when the plotters failed to rally trade unions behind their plans they moved towards the Armed Forces.

The Command Council chairman, in his address to the people's committees in the national capital, said the enemies of the revolution had been thinking that the Army would not be capable of defeating the rebel movement of Garang. But the Armed Forces have shown they are capable of defeating the rebel movement, Gen. al-Bashir said. He pointed out that the plotters have taken the forgiving attitude of the revolution as a sign of weakness, forgetting that the revolution is strong, and capable of dealing a double blow to its enemies.

He said the plotters were trying to bring back the dissolved political parties. He added that these parties had been the cause of many a misery that had befallen the Sudanese peoples.

Gen. al-Bashir has blamed the leaders and privileged sons of the disbanded political parties leaders of have only one goal, which to gain illicit wealth, at the account of the common man. [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, representative of the people's committees has addressed the gathering, saying the foiled coup attempt was against the people and that it carrying traces of the rebel movement. He said the people's committees will stand in one line with the Armed Forces for the defence of the country.

Ummah Party Statement Condemns Executions

EA2604123290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful: a statement from the Ummah party.

God says: There are among the believers men who are true in their pledges to God. Among them there are some who passed away. Among them those who are waiting. They have not changed anything.

God speaks the truth. The Ummah Party mourns for the masses of all our people and the families of the martyrs—the martyrs of the Armed Forces—who have been executed without trial, an act contrary to the Islamic ideals proclaimed by our religion, which has placed in an honored position the humanity of man and made justice, tolerance, cooperation [word indistinct] the essence of faith and guaranteed freedom of choice to man.

These executions constitute a point of transformation in the history of Sudan which has never witnessed the like of these atrocities, brutalities, tortures, and murders. It is deplorable that our masses will have to welcome the Id following the end of the month of fasting, worship, and prayers in this manner. It is the month in which the Koran was revealed, the Koran which forbade the taking of life without good cause, yet these people killed no one.

The masses of our people will have to welcome the holy occasion with this tragic reality and with pain, their hearts rent by grief and suffering.

These executions will not frighten our masses and will not remove the ring of isolation from around the authority of the National Islamic Front and its military council.

These executions will not stop the struggle of our people in their ceaseless striving to regain freedom and democracy.

Our country has never been barren and does not lack men who accept the challenge to move forward with the banner. Let the march of the martyrs be a strong impetus, an inexhaustible source and a fire impossible to put out.

The Ummah Party reiterates its sincere condolences to the masses of our people. It vows before God and the people to continue with the struggle and to step it up with our people's factions, parties, and trade unions, who are united in the Democratic Nationalist Alliance to put an end to this bloody, terrorist, and despotic regime.

The Ummah Party warns the coupist National Islamic Front that the course of violence and bloodshed upon which it has embarked will be the cause of its downfall. Its action will generate a stronger violence. It alone will bear responsibility for the dire consequences.

We salute the masses of our people as they wage a ferocious struggle against dictatorship.

We salute also the steadfast men whose love for the homeland is unbounded. They are now in the detention places, prisons, and torture centers of the Islamic Front and its military council.

Our people, makers of revolutions and uprisings will not be subdued. No dictatorship can usurp the people's freedom. The hour of reckoning is nigh and the dawn of freedom is here, the wrongdoers will know their fate.

[Signed] The Ummah Party.

Strike Participant Reportedly Tortured, Killed

EA2604153790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The day before yesterday, Dr. 'Ali Fadl Ahmad Fadl died at the hands of the Islamic Front's security organ as the result of torture. It is worth recalling that the late Dr. 'Ali Fadl Ahmad Fadl was an active participant in the recent doctors' strike. He was pursued by the security organ of the Muslim brothers, which arrested his brother in lieu of him. Dr. 'Ali Fadl was then persuaded to give himself up to the regular security organ. After a fortnight of unceasing torture, and the

security organ having ascertained that he had been seriously wounded, he was sent to Kobar Prison, from where the prison authorities transferred him to the Medical Corps Hospital, where he went into a coma. Two days later, Dr. 'Ali Fadl Ahmad Fadl was dead. [passage omitted]

After Dr. 'Ali Fadl's death, a widespread and immediate solidarity campaign was mounted in Cairo led by the Arab Lawyers' Union, calling for an end to torture and the release of the political prisoners. The Arab Lawyers' Union sent cables condemning the crime of the assassination of Dr. 'Ali Fadl to the UN Secretary general, Perez de Cuellar; Salim Ahmed Salim, the secretary general of the OAU; al-Shadhili al-Qulaybi, the secretary general of the Arab League; the U.N.'s rapporteur on human rights; the rapporteur of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva; the Human Rights Commission of the OAU; jurists' and lawyers' organizations; and to other international democratic organizations.

SPLA Statement Denies Coup Involvement

EA2604204690 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] A statement to the Sudanese people on the current situation and bloodbath in Khartoum, by the official spokesman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLM/SPLA]:

The SPLM/SPLA political/military high command has observed and followed with deep concern the tragic and ominous events of the last few days in which the junta claimed to have nipped in the bud a military coup d'etat and the subsequent mass murder of alleged coup-makers less than two days before the great occasion of the 'Id Ramadan festivities, and within 24 hours after the alleged coup.

The National Islamic Front [NIF] junta of General al-Bashir ruthlessly advanced on an unprecedented record of murder. Twenty eight officers have already been fire-squaded, while the junta's kangaroo-courts continue their mock trials in darkness, and an evil dark cloud hangs over our beloved country. The Sudanese people and the international community are witnessing an apparent and flagrant disregard to human rights and to human life as the alleged coup- makers appear in front of al-Bashir's kangaroo courts, some only for two minutes within which they were condemned to dath. This cannot be described as denial of a fair trial. There was simply no trial. It was cold-blooded murder.

The junta's claim that the SPLM/SPLA was involved in the alleged coup is baseless and without foundation whatsoever. The SPLM/SPLA was in no way involved in the planning and execution of this alleged coup. The position of the movement on military coups is clear and consistent. The SPLM/SPLA has never advocated nor participated in any military coup. The movement does not support seizure of power by military coup, and therefore the SPLM/SPLA could not have been a party to this alleged coup, as claimed by the junta. The SPLM/SPLA firmly believes that Sudan's fundamental problems cannot be resolved through military coups, including al-Bashir's coup, but through popularly-backed political means, such as the national constitutional conference or a popular uprising.

By alerting its forces at a time of such acute national crisis, the movement did not in any way express support for the alleged coup. This was rather a natural military reaction to a military situation. Hence, the junta's attempt to link the SPLA to the alleged coup is whimsical, malicious, and intended to blindfold the people and to justify the murder of the 28 army officers.

However, although the movement is opposed to military coups and had no role in this alleged coup, we must, nevertheless, underline that Gen. al-Bashir's seizure of power [was] through a military coup, and there is nothing undemocratic or illegal in overthrowing him out through a military coup, since al-Bashir's own seizure of power is illegitimate. While the SPLM/SPLA made its position clear as having no part in the planning and execution of the alleged coup, it deplores and condemns in the strongest terms as despicable the massacre of the 28 officers by the junta.

This butchery, this ruthlessness, this vindictiveness, this flagrant disregard for human life is not in our character and culture as Sudanese. It is unprecedented. The government of al-Bashir is the reincarnation of the devil. It is evil, it is repugnant, it is an odious government, it is a government that smells the smell of rotten eggs and, indeed, al-Bashir and his criminal bunch of rogues are the rotten eggs of our society, the green scum of our society. They must go. The 28 army officers they murdered are martyrs, and they deserve the highest honor and respect due to them for having the courage to stand up against this evil monster of al-Bashir and his junta.

By murdering the 28 officers in cold blood and with blood-thirsty relish and arrogance, the junta obviously deluded itself that it can intimidate and frighten the Sudanese people. This is shameful disregard to public opinion and a tragic underrating and misregarding of the great values and traditions of the Sudanese people. We assure the junta that the Sudanese people will not be intimidated by their murders and reppressions. We assure the Sudanese people that the SPLM/SPLA will never let them down and will deal a deadly blow to the monster. Facing such a primitive and barbaric regime, the SPLM/SPLA calls on the international community to condemn the junta's human rights record in the strongest terms and to suspend all miltiary and economic assistance to the Sudan.

Gen. al-Bashir has not misled [as heard] his words to announce that henceforth he will neither tolerate nor forgive those considered to be enemies of his regime. Such a regime must be boycotted and isolated by all

civilized nations; otherwise they encourage and condone murder. The movement calls on the secretary- general of the UN, the OAU, the Arab League, the International Human Rights Commission, leaders of the Islamic and church councils, Amnesty International, and all humanitarian bodies to condemn the junta's act and come out in full support of the struggling Sudanese people.

The world should note that al-Bashir's junta has decided to be the only dictatorship on earth that has opted to face against the blowing winds of democracy. As the festivities start today all over the Islamic world, in Khartoum, diplomatic missions are invited to congratulate Brigadier [as heard] 'Umar al-Bashir on the occasion. It is worth reminding them that they will find 'Umar's hands still smacking with the blood of the innocents. Please avoid that bloodstained hand. It is a hand not worth shaking.

The SPLM/SPLA will continue to cooperate with the national democratic alliance in search for peace and social justice. In this respect, the movement calls on the trade unions, professional organizations, and political parties to plan and organize a broad-based civil and military coordinated action to topple the monster.

The official spokesman concluded by repeating the chairman and commander-in-chief's call on the Sudanese Army in war zone and in southern Kurdufan and southern Blue Nile to start direct talks with SPLA to discuss and agree on the best way to rid the Sudan of al-Bashir's junta. The system can be changed from anywhere in the Sudan, not necessarily from Khartoum. Patriotic officers and men can take over al-Damazin or Kaduqli or Juba or any other major town, and together with the SPLA and the mass movement, precipitate change in Khartoum. This is maybe a more efficient way to get rid of al-Bashir than a coup in Khartoum. We ask all patriotic officers, NCO's, and men in the war zones to discuss this option and to take unilateral action, and the SPLA will come to your immediate assistance with rations and manpower to enable you to last the period of transition.

Last but not least, the official spokesman conveys to the wives, children, families, and friends of the fallen heroes whom al-Bashir has murdered the heartfelt condolences and sincere sympathy of the chairman and commander-in-chief, Comrade John Garang de Mabior. And they have not fallen in vain. Prosperity will register in the annals of our brave and proud history. The struggle continues!

Further Reportage on Pre-Coup Arrests

EA2604212190 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 apr 90

[Text] A reliable source in Khartoum has revealed that the three senior army officers, Major General 'Uthman Idris Balulah, Major General Khalid al-Zayn, and Brigadier [rank as heard] Muhammad Ahmad al-Qasim were arrested three days before the massacre of the army officers by the junta, under the cover of a coup. The source added that these officers were on the day of the execution marched before a court martial for a trial which lasted only four minutes per each accused. They were sentenced to death by firing squad and the verdict was immediately executed the same day. The trials of all the 28 army officers executed lasted for only two hours.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mansur Khalid comments on the events which took place in Khartoum recently:

[Mansur] The tragic events of the last three days came as no surprise to us. We have already described and have always described the regime in Khartoum as a Fascist regime supported by a political group coming out of a political stone age, and if anybody today has taken exception to this description, they have absolutely no reason today not to agree with us in our description of this government. Now, the movement itself is not deterred by the warning that came out from Al-Bashir. We are more resolved than ever to remove this nonsense out of the way of Sudan and send the junta to where they belong, and that is the dustbin of history. And despite all those warnings, we are more committed to work in unison with the National Democratic Forum, mobilize all our forces and resources in the war zones and beyond so as to achieve this end. We are aware that the junta is fighting with their backs to the wall, and that is in effect a sign of weakness not strength, and we do call upon all the democratic forces to work together both within the army and outside the army under the aegis of the National Democratic Forum.

Kuwait

Tehran Says 'Large Number' Detained in Protests

NC2604191790 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Thousands of Kuwaitis staged a demonstration after 'Id al-Fitr prayers today to protest the continued suspension of the Constitution. Kuwaiti police attacked the demonstrators with batons and tear gas, injuring and detaining a large number. The clashes began when thousands of Kuwaitis marched after the prayers toward the home of the speaker of the dissolved National Assembly in a city suburb to protest dissolution of the assembly. The police and security forces attacked other demonstrators who had assembled near the home of Salih al-Fadalah, deputy speaker of the dissolved assembly.

There are no official reports yet providing details about these clashes or the number of detainees. It was reported, however, that opposition members issued a statement on Tuesday rejecting the government plan to establish a transitional national assembly, declaring this would be a blatant violation of the Constitution. They warned the antigovernment demonstrations and protests would continue after a three-month suspension if the government fails to heed their demands to reconvene parliament and reinstate the Constitution.

Saudi Arabia

Congress Resolution on Jerusalem Causes 'Concern'

LD2604200590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1902 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Riyadh, 26 Apr (SPA)—Saudi Arabia expressed its concern over the U.S. Congress resolution which calls for considering Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

This was stated to SPA today by a responsible source.

He added: "As it reiterates its rejection of any resolution which might change the characteristics of the occupied Palestinian territories, Saudi Arabia would like to recall this resolution contradicts the stance adopted by the United States itself toward the UN resolutions about holy Jerusalem."

He stressed that resolution constituted a historic change of Jerusalem's status which could not be accepted, and that it enabled the aggressor to continue its violations of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

The source added: "The adoption of this resolution at a time when the U.S. Government pursues opening a dialogue with the parties concerned with the Palestinian issue constitutes an obstacle before peace in the region."

The responsible source pointed out: "To abandon implementation of this resolution would mean consecrating the peace efforts aimed at finding a peaceful solution for the Palestinian issue, instead of resorting to attempts to blur the clear, historic facts."

Newspaper Derides Prospect of U.S. Sanctions

JN2704093090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed Iraq's declaration of possessing a strategic deterrent force is guaranteed to make U.S. officials lose their heads to the point where they begin forgetting many known facts and talk, without thinking, about imposing economic sanctions against Iraq.

In an editorial entitled "An Abortive Attempt at Political Blackmail," AL-THAWRAH says: Clearly, major changes and developments on the international scene have made the United States of America push ahead with its exposed attempts to apply more pressures and impose more restraints on the Arab nation at a time when it is increasing its political, military, and economic support to the Zionist entity.

AL-THAWRAH says: Here, we wish to ask the U.S. secretary of state the same question President Saddam Husayn addressed to the U.S. Congress delegation on 12 April 1990. The president told the delegation: Have you asked yourself how can you punish Iraq? You have not armed Iraq, and you have not given it economic or financial aid. Instead, you pursue the Iraqis when they buy the smallest technological items from the U.S. market. You have neither brought us to power, nor do you protect us. You give "Israel" missiles, and when we possess a missile and can tell "Israel" we have such and such a missile, you give it a missile to intercept ours.

Al-THAWRAH says: It seems Mr. James Baker has such a bad memory he has forgotten the United States does not provide any economic or financial aid to Iraq, and that it neither sells arms to, or buys arms from, Iraq, as is the case with "Israel," for example. So, how does Mr. Baker want to impose sanctions on and boycott Iraq?

The paper says the malicious U.S.-Zionist-British campaign against Iraq and the Arab nation shows the extent of the U.S. Administration's desire to harm the Arab nation, and the extent of its violation of its "red lines", which characterized its policy toward the Arab nation's interests and rights. The campaign, furthermore, is an abortive and exposed attempt to pressure Iraq and politically blackmail it.

AL-THAWRAH concludes its editorial by saying: U.S., British, and Zionist circles still are endeavoring to create the psychological and political climate for launching a new Zionist aggression against Iraq, and the statements made by Mr. Baker fall within this context. These statements cannot frighten us; nor will they make us abandon our firm, principled and clear position. They will neither stop us from proceeding on the path of resurrection and progress, nor from rejecting occupation, arrogance, and all forms of pressure and blackmail.

Paper Denounces U.S. House Jerusalem Resolution

JN2604131790 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Apr 26, INA—Iraq dailies today headlined Iraq's high confidence of its capabilities to counter colonialist and Zionist challenges.

AL-THAWRAH, AL-JUMHURIYAH, AL-'IRAQ and AL-QADISIYAH papers agreed that Iraqis' sacrifices had drawn, for the Iraqis and Arabs, their way towards progress that conforms to their history, role and abilities.

AL-THAWRAH daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, said the anti-Iraq purposeful campaign was aimed at blocking the Arabs from taking their opportunity and role and to distort Iraq's image through lies and falsifications launched by "the major players", led by the United States, to make a cover for aggression. [passage omitted]

AL-'IRAQ paper, on the other hand, denounced the U.S. House of Representatives resolution recognising al-Quds as a capital of the Zionist entity.

It said, in its editorial, that the decision came to confirm the anti-Arab obvious hostility and standing against inalienable legitimate Arab rights and the Palestinian people's struggle.

AL-'IRAQ pointed out that the move had come a month after a similar one taken by the U.S. Senate to curb international efforts aimed at seeking just and permanent peace in the region.

It concluded that the United States had switched on, by these decisions, the green light to the Zionist expansionist policy and that it lost its credibility among the peace and freedom-loving peoples and nations.

Columnist Scorns Syrian Reconciliation Bid

JN2604180090 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Apr 90 p 2

[Hadi Danyal article in the "Stance" column: "Wasted Time"]

[Text] There was a time when Hafiz al-Asad used to cash gold in banks which dealt in forged money bills of hard currency and fraudulently marketed them. All of a sudden, the regional adventurer discovers his coffers have collected dust, his political papers are counterfeit, and that his credit with the Arabs amounts to nothing more than curses of his victims, who are crowding a cramped grave. He is suffocating, and now attempts to breathe through the lung he has wasted his time sticking his daggers in. [sentence as published]

He has lost everything, and there he is, trying to borrow from Iraq a drop of blood and a handful of Arabism, lest he retreat with his tail between his legs, so he may once more be able to cheat Iraq if the latter should give him a fresh opportunity to carry on with his dirty game.

Indeed, al-Asad is not gambling with the fate of Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine alone, but he has also tried his luck with Iraq. The partners of the game have, however, sarcastically intimated to him that the gates of Baghdad will not be unlocked by just any key, and so, typical of the old fox some make him out to be, he will have to get a Trojan horse to bluff his way into the capital of Saddam Husayn.

Al-Asad has reached the end of his rope—so much so he has ordered his petty officials to declare before the full glare of the cameras that they hope Iraq will agree to shake his hand in the interest of a united front against an aggression being planned by Zionist and imperialist circles against Iraq. At the same time, however, he declares he will be prepared to conclude a deal with the Zionist entity whereby the Golan Heights would be evacuated, then demilitarized in return for permanent peace with "Israel."

Al-Asad thus is seeking, as is his wont, to hold "Israel" responsible for his taking Iraq's side, should Israel delay in concluding the bilateral deal with him. He is likewise shifting the responsibility of his kowtowing to "Israeli" will onto Iraq, should Baghdad fail to let bygones be bygones and not exonerate him from his crimes within Syria and elsewhere in the Arab world. He seems to be maneuvering to capitalize on Iraq's success in attaining true strategic parity with the Zionist entity in the furtherance of the fortunes of his regime! Al-Asad has been stockpiling light and heavy weaponry purchased from the Eastern bloc under the pretext of an effort to achieve strategic balance with Tel Aviv. He has tried out these weapons on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian peoples, and they have performed rather well. Meanwhile, he has been declaring them to be no match for those of the Zionist enemy.

The escape of one of al-Asad's pilots, with his MiG-23—which Tel Aviv added to the Israeli Air Force during a celebration in which it announced this plane's performance is superior to the most advanced planes in the Zionist Air Force—negates al-Asad's allegations. The big paradox is that Iraq, which was waging the war against al-Asad's allies for eight years, watched al-Asad's allegations silently, and, by developing the weapons it manufactured and testing their efficiency, not only achieved a splendid victory over the Zionist-American-Iranian alliance, but also achieved strategic parity with the Zionist entity by possessing the binary chemical weapon, thus depriving Hafiz al-Asad of all phrases he might utter from his bitter throat. Does al-Asad today ask Iraq for the royalties on the idea of "strategic parity"?

Some Arab media organs, which blow out of proportion statements made by officials in the Syrian regime--particularly regarding the stance of the al-Asad regime on a new Zionist aggression against Iraq—are unaware of the Syrian regime's motives, ill intentions, and the tactical dimension of these statements. These Arab media organs, regrettably, do not see the daggers of treason the al-Asad regime hides behind the velvet gloves it waves before cameras.

What are the practical steps the Syrian regime has taken to serve Arab solidarity? Has Syria withdrawn its Army, which is being fragmented each day in the Lebanese mud to prepare for a decisive battle with the Zionist enemy? Has al-Asad released all Palestinian and national Lebanese prisoners to open up a new chapter with the PLO and the national Lebanese forces? Has he mobilized the Syrian people and their forces for this war to avert a nuclear threat that might affect Syria as well—when Tel Aviv fails to penetrate into impregnable Iraq—particularly since the Zionist entity considers all Arab territory from the east to west a hostile target it will not hesitate to destroy when necessary? Will he allow the Iraqi Army to engage with the Zionist Army across the Syrian border with occupied Palestine?

Does al-Asad hope to take the scandalous position he adopted when the Zionist Army occupied the Arab capital Beirut while his forces were just watching? Who knows? Might the Zionist enemy forces move to Damascus—as a result of the current situation in Syria under al-Asad—to put pressure on Baghdad?

These questions must be posed to the Syrian regime, which believes it might restore the wasted time through exposed, farcical moves. One does not travel the wrong road twice, however, particularly since the wrong road is the road of Hafiz al-Asad, whose hands still are stained with our blood and whose acts still smack of crime and treason.

Anyone who believes we are a nation without memory is mistaken.

Political Maneuvers To Form Government Continue

Rabin Unity Plan Explained

TA2604170390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin has proposed a national unity government be established for six months, followed by direct elections for the premiership without simultaneous elections for the Knesset. Rabin said: I placed the interest of the party above everything else. Rabin finished his speech before the Labor Party Bureau a short while ago. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports:

Good evening from Labor Party headquarters. Yitzhaq Rabin concluded his speech before the bureau approximately 30 minutes ago. He proposed a national unity government with the participation of both the Alignment and the Likud be set up for six months, out of the supposition that any other government would not give Baker a positive response. Rabin proposes that a national unity government, which would give the U.S. secretary of state an affirmative response, be set up before anything else. If there is no viable possibility of establishing such a government, Rabin proposes establishing a national unity government for a limited period of six months, with direct elections for the premiership being held after six months. These elections would be totally separate from elections to the Knesset.

Let us quote Rabin's statements on this matter: I am proposing my own private idea. The peace process would have moved forward if we had reached Cairo, but whoever thinks everything then would have been settled is wrong. There is room, however, for additional considerations and a change in direction. If the Likud would agree to move forward without issuing a positive response to the Baker proposals, but promises to hold direct elections for the premiership—they would be totally unconnected to the elections for the Knesset, which would be postponed with the agreement of the parties—within six months.... [changes thought] The main thing missing is the government's capability to make decisive decisions with checks and balances. Rabin again says the possiblities are: A) A national unity government which would give the U.S. secretary of state a positive response; and B) A change in the electoral system. Without changing the electoral system, there will be no peace process. Rabin estimated Shamir initially will try to set up a narrow government. The way to prevent this from happening, therefore, is to propose national unity while preserving the Alignment's bloc of Knesset members.

Yitzhaq Rabin spoke of the need to prevent establishment of a narrow government several times, and criticized the events of the last year in the Labor Party: I admit my mistake; I did not look thoroughly into all the stories claiming everything was in our pocket and that we could set up a narrow government. Here is another mistake Yitzhaq Rabin mentioned: I admit to a measure of responsibility for the mistakes that were made. My biggest mistake was in placing the interest of the party above everything else. This was my mistake, everyone learns from their mistakes, and this was my major mistake.

In summary, Rabin proposes a national unity government for six months, while effecting electoral reform, with direct elections for the premiership after six months. All this would be in the event an Alignment-Likud national unity government that will say yes to Baker is not set up. The preferred choice—over holding elections for the premiership in six months—is a national unity government made up of the Alignment and the Likud that will further the peace process.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 26 April carries a report by party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz on Shim'on Peres' address to the Labor Party Bureau. Speaking prior to Rabin, Peres said: "We should not take any of the 60 members in our bloc for granted, and we should not let any of them quit this bloc," because "the danger of a right-wing government is real."

As for the possible establishment of a narrow-based Likud-led government, Peres said "there are at least two parties, the NRP [National Religious Party] and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], who talk about either a unity government or calling an election." As for taking part in a broad government, the Labor Party chairman said: "We have never made our participation in a government conditional on its size or makeup. Our condition for participation is that a positive response be given to Baker and peace. If this condition were met, we would take part in a government, whatever its composition."]

Netanyahu Welcomes Proposal

TA2604172990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1636 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Shalom Oren—live]

[Excerpts] [Oren] Here is an initial reaction from the Likud to Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to renew the national unity government. Shalom to Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good evening.

[Oren] Do you welcome the proposal?

[Netanyahu] If MK Yitzhaq Rabin has indeed proposed the establishment of a temporary unity government—headed by the Likud, I presume—for six months to bring about the direct election of the prime minister, I definitely welcome it.

[Oren] Are you voicing your own mind, or are you also speaking for other members of the Likud?

[Netanyahu] I am only speaking for myself. I made an identical proposal immediately at the outset of the government crisis, and it is a shame we had to go through these upheavals to realize this may be the most logical and best way to solve the problems on the agenda. In my opinion, such an interim government has two, and only two, national objectives: Not to make political decisions—after all, we differ in our opinion and that is the reason for the crisis—but to change the electoral system, as proposed by MK Rabin, myself, and others. The second objective is to formulate a national emergency plan to absorb the immigrants. This is an urgent issue that cannot wait six months. The number of apartments available is gradually decreasing, and I am told immigrants are being housed in stables. Hence, we must take immediate action. I believe both these goals are at the moment vital and important to such an interim government. [passage omitted]

[Oren] Do you think the Likud will go along with such a proposal, even if it has a chance of setting up a narrow-based government?

[Netanyahu] The question is, first of all, whether the Alignment will go along with it. If it does not, if this is not a clear, definite, and sincere proposal, if this is not a ploy but a real offer to enact the electoral reform which the entire public yearns for—if the Alignment does not go along with it, then we have nothing to talk about. If that is the case, the Likud should—and I call on it to do so—immediately set up under its leadership what is known as a narrow government. Such a national government would have to do its best to fulfill the national goals on the agenda. But if the Alignment goes along with it, I will definitely try to persuade my colleagues to embrace the proposal.

Sharir Returns to Likud

TA2604182690 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1803 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Dan Scemama report from Likud Central Committee rally at Bet Yotzey Bessarabia in Tel Aviv—live]

[Excerpts] Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Sharir a few seconds ago began his address to the rally. There is no drama, he said, my positions are known, and I can only confirm them. Sharir continued: Roni Milo has said Shamir has the support of 61 MK's, and I confirm that: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will have 61 MK's. Did anyone think that I, through my vote, would prevent the establishment of a Likud-led government? [passage omitted]

Sharir intends to expand at length on the reforms he will propose to change the Likud's structure. I came back to the Likud, he said, although I have not been promised a safe slot, and without posing any conditions. I have simply come back home, to the home I have never left. [passage omitted]

Avraham Sharir's announcement this evening means the Alignment at the moment no longer has the support to block the Likud. The Likud now has 61 MK's who have announced their support for Yitzhaq Shamir. [passage omitted]

Peres on Rabin Plan, Shamir

TA2604202490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres called on President Hayim Herzog to inform him he had failed to form a government. Knesset Member [MK] Peres said he would be in favor of joining a unity government only if a decision is made to give a positive response to Secretary of State Baker's proposals.

Referring to MK Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to join a unity government for six months and to agree on the direct election of the prime minister at the end of that period, Peres said the proposal was impractical.

The Labor Party chairman reacted to MK Avraham Sharir's announcement of his return to the Likud, saying Yitzhaq Shamir had better not rush to declare he has 61 MK's. According to Peres, at least one MK in the Likud bloc has gone on record as saying he would not support a Shamir government. Peres refused to disclose the man's identity. MK Peres was interviewed by our correspondent Arye Golan upon emerging from the presidential residence.

Rabin on Labor 'Intense Dispute'

TA2704060390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Telephone interview with Knesset Member Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Arye Golan and party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz—live]

[Text] [Golan] Good morning, Knesset Member [MK] Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning to you and to the listeners.

[Golan] Although we have heard the NRP [National Religious Party] welcomed your proposal, the other reactions were quite cool. Shim'on Peres said it will be impossible to achieve personal elections for the position of prime minister within six months. Reservations also have been voiced in the Likud. Minister Qatzav said last night this is a strange proposal. Will you pursue it, despite these reactions?

[Rabin] Look, I proposed two alternative solutions to the situation in which the country and the political system currently are immersed. In my opinion, it has been proven the concept of a narrow-based government as proposed by the Labor Party has failed. Therefore, although Peres may believe my proposal for a six-month unity government leading to the personal election of a prime minister with greater authority is impractical, the

impractical nature of what he himself tried to do certainly has been proven. Therefore, I continue to view my proposal as a possible solution that will cleanse the political system of the corruption, blackmail, defections, and all other related phenomena.

Conversely, I also would be ready to accept a national unity government that will promote the peace process according to the government's peace initiative, in order to hold a meeting between the two delegations—Palestinian and Israeli—in Cairo. I know that in the past, both the NRP and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] insisted on establishment of a national unity government that would take action to promote peace, solve defense problems, and above all, to deal with the issue of immigration absorption, which is of almost historic significance for the future of the country and the Jewish people.

[Golan] MK Rabin, I would like, with your permission, to deal with the situation inside the Labor Party in the wake of the failed attempt to form a government. In your opinion, should Shim'on Peres draw personal conclusions and resign as party leader because of what you termed his mistaken conception?

[Rabin] I was only referring to myself. I admitted having made a mistake in preferring harmony within the party and the leadership over other important matters. I will not do it again. As to other people, I will leave them to draw their own conclusions.

[Golan] You will not demand he resign?

[Rabin] At the same time, I believe that in anticipation of the two feasible alternatives—a national unity government or a deployment toward personal elections—the Labor Party must undergo certain changes, which I will not detail.

[Golan] Does this include the leadership?

[Rabin] I will not go into further detail.

[Golan] When will you launch a personal race against Shim'on Peres? It was said yesterday that....

[Rabin, interrupting] There is no race at the moment. We must prepare for what awaits us.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, I would like to return to the mistake you said you have made: preferring peace within the party. What do you intend to do?

[Rabin] I will forgo harmony in the party if it is in the way of the other needs, as I see them: those of the nation, the country, and the party.

[Golan] Even at the cost of a rift?

[Rabin] Even at the cost of an intense dispute within the party.

[Golan] Do you know the identity of the 61st MK who told Shim'on Peres he will not support Shamir's government?

[Rabin] I just heard this on this program, when MK Bibi [of the NRP] was interviewed. I myself know nothing about this. You must ask the man who made this announcement.

[Golan] He refused to say. Another question, MK Rabin: Do you believe the Labor Party should demand rotation of the premiership in the national unity government, even if it is formed for a short time?

[Rabin] Not if it is a government for a predefined short period. If it is a national unity government set up for a longer period, the central issue is the content, not the problem of rotation.

[Raz] The central question perhaps is the fact the chief partner for this move, the Likud, has repeatedly said, through various spokesmen, that it is not interested in a broad-based government.

[Rabin] The Likud cannot be coerced, and I have no such intentions. All I wanted was to express a willingness and to see whether the parties that had declared their stance against any narrow-based government—as you heard MK Bibi do—still stand firm behind their declarations, even if the party that is trying to form a government is not the Labor Party, but the Likud.

[Golan] What about going into opposition, MK Rabin? There is a whole group in your party, possibly headed by MK Hayim Ramon, but comprising additional people, who urge going into opposition.

[Rabin] Opposition is not a goal to which one strives. A party reaches the opposition bench as a result of failing to form a government or to be a partner in a government. It is no use describing opposition as a lever. In its seven years in opposition, the Labor Party witnessed a complete deterioration in Israel's economic system and the unfortunate Lebanon war, and it was only in 1984 that we regained our senses and set up a national unity government, which endured for five and a half years. True, we did not achieve all our goals in that framework, but we certainly averted disasters and repaired the damage caused by Likud governments in the socioeconomic sphere; we also pulled the country out of the Lebanese quagmire.

[Golan] In your opinion, it will not be a disaster if a new unity government is established that will fail to give Baker an affirmative answer?

[Rabin] That is not true. The test of the government in which we will be partners will be the promotion of the peace process, which at this moment means arranging an encounter between the two delegations in Cairo.

[Golan] Can this Cairo encounter be arranged without saying yes to Baker?

[Rabin] I see no such way.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, what will be the task of the Labor Party's follow-up team, which is distinguished by the people who were excluded from it?

[Rabin] The Labor Bureau made three resolutions last night: 1) We must try to prevent establishment of a narrow-based, right-wing government; 2) To achieve the above, the bloc which supported us must be preserved to the extent possible; 3) Positive proposals must be made. I see the two proposals I made as positive in that they reflect the Labor Party's willingness—not a rush or a crawl, but a willingness—to join a unity government under certain conditions, to achieve either the promotion of the peace process or electoral reform and the political system's recovery from the corruption we have witnessed during the last six weeks.

[Raz] In your opinion, the follow-up team is the body that should deal with these issues?

[Rabin] Yes, certainly. It was authorized to expand [not further specified], and I hope it will do so.

[Golan] MK Yitzhaq Rabin, we thank you very much.

[Rabin] Thank you.

Likud, SHAS Reaction

TA2704065890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Alignment Knesset Member [MK] Efrayim Gur is advising the Likud leaders to stop spreading the rumor he supports their government. MK Gur told our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz there is no agreement between him and the Likud, and that it is doubtful such an agreement will be made. He maintained he will decide next week whether to secede from the Alignment and that even if he does, there is no certainty he will join the Likud bloc. MK Gur emphasized, at the same time, that the chances of his seceding from the Alignment are slim.

NRP [National Religious Party] MK Yig'al Bibi said he will not support a narrow-based government led by the Likud, and that he remains true to his party's resolution to opt either for early elections or a broad-based government.

SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] has embraced in principle MK Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to set up a unity government for six months, after which direct elections for prime minister would be conducted. SHAS is taking no public action in this matter, however, in order to avoid the impression it is putting obstacles in the Likud's way. Our correspondent reports this stance emerged in a meeting conducted by SHAS last night.

The secretary general of the NRP, MK Yitzhaq Levi, has also stated Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal must be considered, as it frees the government from the need to give an affirmative reply to Secretary Baker. The Likud, on the other hand, has rejected Rabin's proposal, saying it has made commitments to its small partners, who have demonstrated loyalty to the Likud.

Labor Follow-Up Team Detailed

TA2704070490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The Labor Party Bureau has decided to set up a follow-up team that includes Shim'on Peres, Yitzhaq Rabin, and Mikha Harish. The significance of this resolution is that Yosi Beilin, Hayim Ramon, and Rafi Edri, who favor a narrow-based government, were removed from the Alignment's negotiating team.

The newly established follow-up team is to work toward the following goals: preserve the Alignment bloc; prevent establishment of an extremist right-wing government; and act for establishing a government that will revive the peace process by providing an affirmative reply to Secretary Baker.

Herzog Grants Shamir Mandate

TA2704073290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] President Herzog has entrusted Prime Minister Shamir with the mandate to form a government. The president expressed his anxiety over the verbal and physical violence that had accompanied efforts to establish a government, noting he is confident Mr. Shamir is aware of these perils. Mr. Shamir replied he will act to form a government within a short time.

The prime minister rejected Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal to form a unity government for a predetermined period, after which direct elections for the position of prime minister would be conducted. He explained it is essential to set up a stable government that will remain in office until the end of its legal term.

Alignment Seen as 'Opposition'

TA2704095490 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 90 p B1

[Editorial: "It Is the Turn of a Right-Wing Government"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Moda'i's announcement on Wednesday put an end to one chapter of the coalition crisis and finally clarified what should have been clear for a while: Shim'on Peres did not succeed in forming his government. The Labor Party chairman could only notify the president of his failure and return his mandate. The president, on the other hand, could task only Yitzhaq Shamir with forming the government. Any other step, even if allowed by law, would have been necessarily interpreted as dictated by the president's partisan tendencies.

In addition to the appropriate constitutional procedure, it seems very likely that under prevailing conditions, Shamir will be able to form his own government, and

perhaps even very soon. Naturally, this will be a government made up of the right-wing-religious bloc which prevented Peres from forming a government of his own. Despite the fact there will be a large number of partners to the coalition agreement, their lineup will be quite natural. Despite their sulking, the Moda'i group eventually remained part of the Likud. The ideological differences between the Likud and the Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet parties, and even the National Religious Party in its current form, are minute.

There is no reason for this right-wing bloc in particular not to live in an alliance with the ultraorthodox parties. If Knesset Member Eli'ezer Mizrahi remains faithful to his tendency to support Shamir's government, and if Avraham Sharir indeed returns to the Likud, Shamir will have a government. True, it will have a skinny majority, but it will be quite homogeneous.

Whether such a government will be able to administer the state under current conditions, mainly in the international arena, is a totally different question. It seems hard to believe the United States would give up its initiative to bring the sides in the Middle East to the negotiating table. Europe, with its clearly defined positions on the matter, is turning into a heavyweight element the closer we get to 1992. There is doubt whether the previous government, headed by Yitzhaq Shamir, could have given the hope that it intends to promote the political process and satisfy U.S. and European expectations. It is absolutely clear, however, that a government with right-wing partners will not be able to provide hope at all. How long will such a government exist if its policy places the country in international isolation and perhaps even endangers the huge immigration from the USSR?

Despite all these fears, and perhaps even because of them, any attempt to form a government similar to the one toppled by the Knesset last month should be rejected. The situation due to which the Alignment decided to vote no-confidence in Shamir's government has not changed—it has perhaps even worsened. The Shamir government that will be set up now—with or without the Alignment—will be less capable than its predecessor of promoting the peace process. Talk of preferring a national unity government over a right-wing government no longer has any grounds.

The Alignment will not improve the right-wing government. It will only grant it unnecessary legitimization. The Alignment has no other option but to take to the opposition benches and conduct the struggle for its principles from there. The right-wing government that Shamir will be able to set up will not be a good one. This, however, is the government that the Knesset's composition allows to exist. If it succeeds, it will confirm the voter was right in choosing a right-wing bloc. If it fails, the voter will perhaps have learned a lesson.

Shamir on Settlement, Peace

TA2704104590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 27 Apr 90

[By Jack Katzenell]

[Text] [Indistinct passage] answer on the future of the Jewish settlement in the Christian quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, so we asked him what settlement policy his government would pursue if it is dependent for survival on the small, right-wing parties?

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Well, we have our policy that Israeli citizens have the right to settle themselves everywhere in Israel.

[Katzenell] What is going to happen to relations with the United States if you have to make concessions to Ge'ula Kohen and Refa'el Eytan and Mr. Ze'evi and speed up the pace of settlement?

[Shamir] I have not to make concessions to anybody. We have to do what it is necessary for the well-being of the country. [end recording]

Shamir said he and his new government would remain committed to the peace initiative of the previous government, his rejection of the Baker proposal notwithstanding.

Further on Immigrant Absorption, Jerusalem Dispute

2.44 Billion Shekels for Homes

TA2704070890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Apr 90 p 20

[By Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday approved a NIS [new Israeli shekels] 2.44 billion plan to build 32,500 housing units for new immigrants, including a programme that would give bonuses to contractors who finish their buildings quickly.

Builders who complete their work within seven months will receive NIS 30,000, and those who do so within 15 months will receive NIS 4,000.

Most of the funding, NIS 2.13b., is earmarked for government guarantees to builders, in the event that the apartments are not purchased by private parties. The plan provides funds for the government to purchase 40-50 per cent of the apartments built in the centre of the country, and 60-70 per cent of those built in outlying areas.

Much of the discussion focused on the geographical distribution of the apartments, which some committee members felt were too highly concentrated in the central region. At present, only 6,000 apartments are planned for the Negev and Galilee.

Committee chairman Avraham Shohat (Labour) suggested that 1,500 units be added to each of these areas.

The committee decided to go ahead with the original plan and to continue the discussion of the geographical distribution of the apartments at a later date, since not all of the construction is to start immediately.

Churches Close in Protest

TA2704113290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The leaders of the major Christian denominations in Israel have closed their churches in protest over the settlement in the Christian quarter in Jerusalem. For the first time in 800 years, the doors of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem were closed, black flags were hoisted, and heads of the major churches convened there to conduct a joint prayer.

In solidarity, the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock also have been closed.

Further on Results of Visit by CSFR's Havel

Palestinians Voice Concerns

TA2604193490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Excerpt] A delegation of Palestinians calling on President Vaclav Havel this afternoon asked him not to have the CSFR help Soviet Jews get to Israel. After the meeting in East Jerusalem, President Havel's spokesman said Prague will ask Israel to provide guarantees the Soviet immigrants will not be directed to the territories. Nevertheless, the spokesman pointed out, direct flights from Czechoslovakia to Israel will begin operating within a few weeks. [passage omitted]

Accord Signed on Commission

LD2504170590 Prague CTK in English 1304 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Prague April 25 /CTK/—A memorandum on agreement from the talks between Israeli Minister of Religious Affairs Zvulun Hammer and Czechoslovak Deputy Premier Josef Hromadka, which took place here on April 22-25, was signed here today.

Both ministers and their governments welcomed the expansion of the two countries' relations and stressed the great importance of the renewal and deepening of historical links between the people of Israel and Czechoslovakia.

The memorandum states that both sides have agreed on immediately setting up a joint Czechoslovak-Israeli commission to extend these relations.

Among the main tasks of the commission will be cooperation in evaluating and classifying collections of objects at Prague's state Jewish museum. The commission will work out a long-term plan of lending some of the objects to Israel and a plan of repairs of those Prague synagogues not in use which could serve as exhibition halls. The state Jewish museum will be equipped with scientific material and the necessary technology for Judaic studies. In Terezin, north Bohemia, a Jewish ghetto museum will be set up as a memorial to the holocaust.

The commission should file all Jewish historical, religious, social and cultural monuments in Czechoslovakia. School curriculums should include information about the history and cultural legacy of the Jewish nation. Students and artists will have the possibility to participate in exchange visits.

According to the memorandum both sides were pleased with the possibility of expanding tourism, as with the establishment of a direct flight link between both states.

Economic Agreements Detailed

TA2604180890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and his Czech counterpart, Jiri Dienstbier, this evening signed an economic cooperation agreement between the two countries. The agreement calls for cooperation in the fields of agriculture, tourism, telecommunications, and science.

Today, Czechoslovak President Vaclev Havel toured Jerusalem. He visited Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial, the Israel museum, and received a honorary doctorate from the Hebrew University.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 26 April adds: "Israel and the CSFR will set up binational chambers of commerce. This was decided today in a meeting between Dani Gillerman, president of the Israeli Union of Chambers of Commerce, and Dr. Richard Wagner, head of the economic delegation accompanying President Vaclav Havel in his visit in Israel. Israeli exports to Czechoslovakia increased by 17 percent last year, while imports rose by 130 percent."]

Editorial on 'Naive' U.S. Arms Sale Policy

TA2704065090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Apr 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Feeding the Monster"]

[Text] The U.S. has sound reasons for selling arms to Arab countries. Arms sales are a vehicle of influence. Regimes which are pro-West but whose form of government and social structure are far from Western can justify their ties with the West only if they can show concrete advantages, of which access to American weaponry is a major one. If these regimes are to be kept pro-Western, advocates of these sales suggest, their armies must be dependent on American spare parts and be trained by Americans. Otherwise they might become Soviet clients. Moreover, if America does not sell them arms, they could turn to the Europeans, far less concerned with Israel's security and free of "Jewish-lobby"

pressures, and who would fill the void without imposing the constraints usually imposed by the U.S.

There are purely economic considerations, too. Arms reductions, decreed by international agreements and voluntary defence-budget cuts, have created a crisis in the arms industries. To keep producing at anything like the present rate, and to keep prices at levels acceptable to the Pentagon, American arms industries have to find substitute customers. The Arab countries, willing to spend astronomic sums on arms, are a natural choice.

But it would be hopelessly naive to suggest that these arms cannot and will not be used against Israel. In this volatile region, alliances and rivalries change like quicksilver. It was not so long ago that Iran and Libya were pillars of Western defence and Egypt was a Soviet ally. Nor do pro-Western proclivities preclude enmity for Israel. In recent weeks the Arab countries, including Morocco and Egypt, have joined an active campaign against aliya and supported Saddam Husayn's threats against Israel. Buoyed by such support, Saddam, who began by threatening to incinerate half of Israel if it attacked Iraq, has now warned of Iraqi retaliation if Israel attacked any [previous word italicized] Arab state. Since the Arab regimes recognize 'Arafat's "Palestine" as a state, the threat's interpretation can be broad indeed.

The absence of Arab denunciation of these threats has not deterred the U.S. Administration. It intends selling in the 1991 budgetary year $13 billion worth of arms, including the most advanced offensive weapons, to the Arab states. In the past, Israel was compensated for weapon sales to Arabs by the supply of even more sophisticated arms. But effectively compensating for large quantities of state-of-the-art American weapons in Arab hands will be virtually impossible. Moreover, the very fact that hostile Arab regimes possess weapon systems used by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] puts Israel at a disadvantage. Thus, by appreciably diminishing, if not eliminating, Israel's qualitative edge while substantially increasing Arab quantitative superiority, these sales will inevitably cripple the only deterrence to an Arab-Israel war: the fear of decisive Israel superiority. A marked change in the power balance would create a temptation to attack Israel which no peace settlement with the Palestinians could assuage.

The U.S. faces a formidable dilemma. It is almost superhuman, particularly under severe economic pressures, to resist the seduction of tremendous short-range gain. It can only be hoped that the Administration will nevertheless opt for far-sighted statesmanship.

Remaining Norwegian Heavy Water To Be Returned

TA2704092490 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Apr 90 p A1

[By 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Israel soon will return to Norway the entire remaining quantity of heavy water it purchased more than 30 years ago, thereby putting an end to a prolonged dispute which cast a shadow on relations between the two countries.

Israel claimed only about half of the original quantity was left, and that it should therefore return approximately 10 tonnes to Norway. Yehi'el Yativ, Israel's ambassador to Norway, who conducted clandestine negotiations with the government in Oslo during the past few years, initialed the accord. Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Knut Velbek also signed it, but the agreement still requires the approval of the Israeli Government. The Norwegian Government has already welcomed it.

More than two years ago, the two governments worked out a framework agreement outlining the means of control over the use of the heavy water, which was purchased in 1959. In view of criticism in parliament in Oslo and in the Norwegian media, the Norwegian Government decided not to endorse that accord and to launch negotiations premised on the return of the heavy water.

The agreement, which was signed yesterday, details the ways of delivering the heavy water from Israel to Norway and the means of supervising the transfer of the water, which will be returned within 12 months of the date the agreement becomes effective. Norway will pay Israel approximately $2 million.

Soviet Emigration Cited in Population Totals

TA2704090390 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Apr 90 p A5

[By Yosi Groenstein]

[Text] Israel has a population of 4.604 million citizens. Of them, 81.5 percent are Jews, 14.5 percent Muslims, 2.3 percent Christians, and 1.7 percent Druze. This was

reported yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. During the last 12 months, the population increased by 2.4 percent—the highest rate since 1979. The Jewish population grew by 2.2 percent (compared to 1.2 percent last year), thanks to the large wave of emigration from the USSR.

117 Arabs, 12 Soldiers Wounded in Jabalyah Riots

TA2604180190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The Israeli Army spokesman reports 117 people were wounded in demonstrations and riots in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, and 40 of them remain hospitalized. Arab sources contend 150 people were wounded. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports 12 soldiers were wounded in the riots. Most of them were treated on the spot and sent home.

A firebomb was thrown at an Israeli Army patrol in the Jabalyah refugee camp. No one was hurt, and it caused no damage.

General Strike in West Bank; Curfew Update

TA2704074790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] A general strike ordered by the Unified National Command of the Uprising is under way today in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that leaflet No. 55 calls for a strike in solidarity with Jerusalem, in the leaflet's words. In several parts of the West Bank, however, there is only a partial strike.

The curfews remain in force in Nabulus, 'Anabtah, and Qabatiyah. This morning, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed curfews on the al-Shati' refugee camp and the Gaza neighborhood of al-Shaykh Radwan.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 27 April adds that "following the violent demonstrations in Jabalyah, the chief of staff last night toured the refugee camp and directed Army commanders there to continue the curfew indefinitely and to prevent any disturbances."]

Efforts Continue To Free Westerners, Iranians

Further on Fadlallah Remarks

NC2604165790 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah today emphasized he has no objection to the release of the Western hostages held in Lebanon and called for the release of Iranians who were kidnapped by the Lebanese Forces in 1982. In a sermon on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, he noted there is a great deal of talk about the tragedy of the Western hostages whom the Americans and others want released. There is no objection to this, he said, adding: We call for the release of all hostages wherever they may be, including the Lebanese and Iranians who were kidnapped in the eastern area. He asked: Why don't they talk about the release of the mujahidin held in Israel and other individuals arbitrarily detained in the al-Khiyam detention camp? Addressing the Western countries, he said: Why are you the only ones who claim to represent human values, when you treat us as if we were insects?

'Source' on ICRC Workers

NC2604173990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Michel Dufour, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] in Lebanon, has expressed optimism about an early solution to the issue of ICRC representatives Elio Erriquez and Emanuel Christian, who were kidnapped last October in Sidon.

Defour, who arrived in Sidon this morning at the head of an ICRC delegation, met with Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, while ICRC official (Marlin Martin) attended. Martin was sent to Beirut yesterday to follow up on the issue of the two abducted Swiss citizens.

REUTER has cited a source close to Sa'd as saying the latter met twice with the two men's abductors at dawn today after having telephoned a Syrian official. The source told REUTER the abductors had made a promise but did not honor it. The source cited the abductors as saying they will not release the two Swiss men for security reasons, which the source described as more than a pretext.

ICRC Delegation Arrives

NC2604123890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] A representative of the information department of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] and a Swiss media delegation arrived in Beirut yesterday from Geneva to take part in negotiations for the release of the two kidnapped ICRC representatives.

An ICRC delegation today arrived in Sidon where two kidnapped Red Cross representatives, Elio Erriquez and Emanuel Christian, are expected to be released soon. They were kidnapped in Sidon last October. The four-member delegation is headed by the head of the ICRC in Lebanon, Michel Dufour. The delegation met at its headquarters in Sidon with the Lebanese Red Cross employees, who have been following up the contacts for the release of the two kidnapped employees for the past three days. The delegation is scheduled to meet with several officials in Sidon for this purpose.

Team Departs; No Announcement

NC2704065390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] A team from the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] left Sidon yesterday without announcing the results of its mission to seek the release of ICRC workers Elio Erriquez and Emanuel Christian. Members of the team met with Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, who repeated his appeal for the release of the two Swiss employees, noting that the abductors might not respond.

'Awn Says Al-Ta'if Accord 'No Solution'

PM2704094890 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 Apr 90 pp 14-16

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn by AL-HAWADITH team including Ilyas 'Awn, director general of the Alf Laylah Wa Laylah publishing house, Elie Nasrallah, and Sabin Farra in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: A year and a half [as published] has passed since 23 July 1989 when you moved to B'abda Palace. The steel is worn out, but the general is not tired of the economic, military, and political battles. Where are you heading in these battles and how will they end—that is, if they are going to end?

Gen. 'Awn: This is basically a battle for survival. It is a battle that will confirm or negate the Lebanese identity. Hence the all-out confrontation, which has taken several forms.

We have faced political war and political and economic boycott. We have been the target of a foreign political campaign and are engaged in a military confrontation at home, particularly at this stage. We will stand fast and firm until we ensure our survival and stability. There are radical changes in the region, and they could play havoc with borders and peoples. We are fighting to ensure our continuity and our existence, to ensure our presence around the table—not on it—with those who will make the decisions and who will have identities: not those who receive gifts.

AL-HAWADITH: You have just spoken of changes which could affect borders and peoples. Do you anticipate attempts to reduce the number of Christians in Lebanon, as in 1975-76 when Dean Brown came and told President Franjiyah that there were ships ready if

the Christians wanted to emigrate. Will what is happening now and the expected developments all lead to Christian emigration under the pressure of gunfire?

Gen. 'Awn: There is no doubt this is one of the attempts being made, accompanied by obvious U.S. incitement by the U.S. State Department. It is really regrettable, sad, and disgraceful that the U.S. State Department should take such a stand against all the Lebanese people—and not just the Christians. It encourages fighting sometimes by inciting the Lebanese Forces to rebel; at other times by inciting the military; and by urging other sides to exert military pressure, as though Lebanon had become the main problem for the United States, which seeks to foment sedition in Lebanon. We have not yet forgotten Simpson's notorious past statements in which he said: "It will be either al-Ta'if or anarchy." Murphy repeated the same thing when he said: "Either what has been agreed upon is accepted, or there will be problems." [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: As is known, the eastern area is now two areas. Without Kasrawan and Jubayl, your political and military positions remain weak. Now Dr. Salim al-Huss' government has opened a dialogue with the Lebanese Forces leadership, as has Lakhdar Ibrahimi. Will all these steps, in your view, lead to a political solution or to your capitulation and acceptance of the fait accompli?

Gen. 'Awn: An ordinary mind would see it that way, but a strategic mind would see quite the opposite. When two political powers decide to have a dialogue they must have common ground regarding any solution.

Proceeding from that, I say I do not see any common ground between the Lebanese Forces and the Arab tripartite committee and those it represents. Understanding between these two sides is therefore impossible. There is a possibility of surrender, but it remains to be seen who will surrender to whom and who will deceive whom. For my part, I did not wish to play this game with the Lebanese people. I adopted a frank position on what happened when I concluded al-Ta'if was not the solution to the Lebanese problem. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Has the al-Ta'if agreement reached a dead end, in your opinion?

Gen. 'Awn: If they want the al-Ta'if agreement to be the real solution, then they should agree to parliamentary elections, but they do not want a solution because they rule out elections. So I ask, why do they prevent elections in Lebanon, and—assuming there is a solution for Lebanon and the Lebanese people—why does the United Nations not make a move, in cooperation with the Arab League, to supervise elections? [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Will the Jewish immigration lead to a greater Israel and a greater Syria at the expense of the south and al-Biqa'?

Gen. 'Awn: I do not have a map now, and I do not know what is being cooked up in the secret international kitchen, but I can confirm there is foul play that will result in demographic and geographical imbalance. Al-Ta'if is not the solution. It is a sedative used ostensibly with goodwill but secretly with ill will. I say al-Ta'if is finished. Let the people of al-Ta'if implement it. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is the alternative? You are always blamed for not coming up with an alternative solution.

Gen. 'Awn: I do have an alternative. Elections are the alternative which will produce an alternative plan. Anyone who claims to have a different alternative for Lebanon is above all undemocratic and illiberal. Democracy requires that I call for elections in which the Lebanese people can choose their representatives, who then can respond to the political wishes of the people and introduce reforms and solutions. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Where are we heading?

Gen 'Awn: You ask me such a question? The press is known to have its own views and analyses of the situation, with its broad outlines of future developments. I maintain that when the people who caused the crisis are lauded it signifies a continuation of the crisis. The purpose of my confrontation with them is to resolve the crisis and to steer matters toward a solution. But all the existing traditional powers which, as I have said, still have a 1920 mentality—even though they have developed from high commissioners at that time, to embassies, and now to al-Ta'if agreement parties—are now mobilizing their forces against me, while the crisis continues and the people are back to square one.

The question now is: What is being rejected? I answer that by saying it is the solution concocted for Lebanon that is being rejected. I propose a solution: A solution can be achieved by going back to the people. We propose friendship with Syria and peace with all. What is wrong with that? If what is proposed is wrong, then let them say what proposals are right. The parties capable of finding a solution in Lebanon have not yet met.

AL-HAWADITH: Current events are similar to the events of 6 February which were staged to abort, and which did abort, the tripartite agreement. Will the al-Ta'if agreement—which the Lebanese Forces are moving toward—collapse?

Gen 'Awn: The al-Ta'if agreement no longer means anything to me. I dissolved the Chamber of Deputies in my constitutional capacity in the government. Then they elected a president. The president was then assassinated, so they elected another president and formed a government. Let them implement the al-Ta'if agreement.

AL-HAWADITH: But there is an obstacle called Michel 'Awn.

Gen. 'Awn: No. They [the deputies] met twice to elect a president, and a government was formed. The deputies are still there. So why should I be an obstacle? Let them consider me a militia and after six months, if they implement the al-Ta'if agreement, I would dissolve myself [as a militia] and they could take over the army.

AL-HAWADITH: It seems no solution is possible in Lebanon in isolation from a solution of the Middle East crisis.

Gen. 'Awn: I do not know, but I again urge them to implement the al-Ta'if agreement if they can, and then come to me after six months and I would dissolve myself. If they do not recognize me as a government, let them regard me as militia. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Is there any possibility of a reconciliation between you and Dr. Ja'ja'?

Gen. 'Awn: No. He must first have a reconciliation with the Christians, and then with the Lebanese people. Just as I was the last to raise differences with him, I will be the last to have a reconciliation with him. He should make peace with the Franjiyah family and with the Karami family. Then I would think about a reconciliation with him.

AL-HAWADITH: The media have carried reports about your sending envoys to Syria and messages to the Arab tripartite committee members and have claimed the Moroccan officials refused to receive your messages. What is your comment on that?

Gen. 'Awn: Let the Moroccan officials comment on it.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the envoys to Syria? Colonel Fawzi Abu-Farhat's name has been mentioned, and it has been claimed the talks failed.

Gen. 'Awn: I cannot answer claims made by some people. Let the Syrians themselves say whether or not the talks failed.

AL-HAWADITH: We notice there is some Syrian appeasement towards you these days.

Gen. 'Awn: Yes, that is a clear step.

AL-HAWADITH: How do you interpret that?

Gen. 'Awn: There are realities. When an equation emerges on the ground it opens new horizons and paves the way for new equations. Perhaps the media truce is the beginning of a new equation, and perhaps it is just due to the current internal conflict here, on which Syria may want to be neutral. We have other preoccupations. Perhaps it is the beginning of new political inclinations.

AL-HAWADITH: What was the nature of the recent French move through French Ambassador Rene Ala, who shuttled between B'abda Palace, Bkirki, and President al-Hirawi's headquarters?

Gen. 'Awn: It was an exploratory diplomatic move, in addition to giving advice. These are personal matters which I cannot talk about. All I can say is he tried to open up new horizons.

AL-HAWADITH: Was it successful?

Gen. 'Awn: No. There were other initiatives after that.

AL-HAWADITH: What roles did Syria and Israel play in the battles between the army and the Lebanese Forces?

Gen. 'Awn: Let history speak for itself, later, about every role. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What about funds and salaries? Has that problem been solved or not?

Gen. 'Awn: We pay what we can, with what we have. I would like here to address the following question to those who recognize al-Hirawi's legitimacy locally and internationally: How could a legitimate government allow itself to practice sectarian discrimination and deny the Christians their rights, and how could other states send humanitarian aid to a government which starves its own people? [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is the army's position now?

Gen. 'Awn: Absolutely excellent. They have failed to penetrate it. It cannot be penetrated militarily or politically, nor can it penetrated by the United States or the militias. It is united and patriotic, with its roots deep in the ground and its head high up in the sky.

AL-HAWADITH: It has been claimed it has become like a militia, and that its size has shrunk to 2,000 or 3,000 troops.

Gen. 'Awn: May God help them. With so many such mistakes committed in Lebanon, it is no wonder we have reached the present state of affairs.

We move on. We were the main cause of al-Ta'if, which means its implementation should take place through us.

AL-HAWADITH: You shocked the world and carried out a bloodless revolution. The palace became the people's palace and the people rallied to your support and prevented an armed advance against you. But now the picture has changed, and you have been the target of an armed advance from within, and you have been cornered after more than 30 French deputies came here and more than 30 French deputies went to al-Ta'if.

Gen. 'Awn: We have already talked about that. We said then the dollar power and the major powers failed to influence the army or the state ministries, but they did manage to influence a rash power-hungry group which, as you can see, has joined in the game and caused an internal explosion. That, however, has not negatively affected the Lebanese people's steadfastness, unlike the cases of many other nations. Wherever you look you see people dealing with the enemy. No matter how often the

United States says it is not involved in the Lebanese question, the truth is it practices instigation and incitement. This is a catastrophe, and it has been exposed. It is as though they wanted the Lebanese people to commit suicide.

I would therefore like to ask: Are the major powers in earnest in what they are doing, or is it a farce?

AL-HAWADITH: It has been claimed Gen. 'Awn lacks political flexibility.

Gen. 'Awn: My silence about the Americans for five or six months is enough to show I am more than flexible in politics. They are a source of continuous provocation—provocation to the Lebanese people's feelings and existence.

AL-HAWADITH: You have stressed the army has not been penetrated, but what about Paul Faris [breakaway officer] and those who joined him?

Gen. 'Awn: What does Paul Faris represent? There are more Americans working for the Soviet Union than army people dealing with the Lebanese Forces. We should look at the ratio.

AL-HAWADITH: Is it small?

Gen. 'Awn: It is zero. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is your position on the storming operations?

Gen. 'Awn: There will be no storming in future, but we will stand firm. I have decided to give a chance to interaction within the Lebanese Forces—interaction of conscience and human feeling so they can ask themselves: What have we done and why?

I assure the Lebanese people I will not be the first to act militarily, but I would like to ask every member of the Lebanese Forces: Why are they deployed in areas extending from al-Kalb river, to Kafr Dhibyan farm, to Sannin? Why are their cannon and guns aimed inward, and since when has the army posed a threat to them? Who persuaded them that the army was their enemy? [passage omitted]

'Awn Rules Out Victory by Lebanese Forces

NC2604193190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] In an interview with AL-DIYAR, Michel 'Awn said the battle has been decided and Ja'ja' should step down from the Lebanese Forces command. 'Awn said Ja'ja' keeps triggering new fighting and escalating the situation because he wants to prevent cooler heads from prevailing, which would harm him and benefit us.

Despite the disasters 'Awn's policies and recklessness have caused the citizens, 'Awn believes he has a great future ahead of him. He said: They spread rumors General 'Awn will be finished in a matter of days or weeks. I tell them and I tell Ja'ja': Not in 10 days or in 10 years will the Lebanese Forces under Ja'ja' ever triumph over Gen. 'Awn or score any victory. On the contrary, the Lebanese Forces under Ja'ja' no longer have any role and will never have one, for Ja'ja' wants the Lebanese Forces to kill the people.

'Awn said: The Lebanese Forces under Ja'ja's command are finished. Ja'ja' has no more than 1,400 fighters left in his fighting machine, down from the original 14,000. This is because many have deserted in addition to those who were killed or wounded, 'Awn added.

Paper Expects End to Eastern Battles in 1 Month

NC2504103290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Is it true General 'Awn kindles the war every time the guns go silent in order to attain the new phase about which the newspaper AL-DIYAR writes today? The paper says the battles in the eastern area, according to the views of western European sources, will end in a month with the entry of the Syrian Army into the entire eastern area. Now that the battles have continued, popular wrath has become apparent, and states have exerted efforts for a Syrian role to be accepted in ending the armed conflict and supervising implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement.

These sources, according to AL-DIYAR, likened the situation in the eastern area to the situation that prevailed in the western area before the Syrians entered it.

The response came from 'Awn, who told his officers in the Defense Ministry yesterday that military action is undertaken to attain a specific political positivity. Does the positivity and the surprise promised by 'Awn mean the Syrian entry into the eastern area?

Continued Detention of Ship 'Reason' for Fighting

NC2504104890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Security sources have told our radio the reason for the security flare-up the eastern areas have been experiencing since yesterday is the continued detention of the passenger ship (Denis) in Juniyah.

The sources said a deadline that expires today has been set for the release of the ship, which is owned by George Karam. Karam, who is aboard the ship, had intended to operate it on the Golden Beach to Larnaca route.

Meanwhile, the artillery duels between positions held by 'Awn forces and others held by the Lebanese Forces [LF] eased approximately 30 minutes ago. [passage omitted]

[In a Beirut-datelined report, Paris AFP in English at 0906 GMT on 25 April indicates: "Warring Christian factions fought sporadically early Wednesday after a six-hour rocket and artillery duel overnight that left three people dead and seven wounded." AFP also adds: "The

latest violence was sparked by a maritime blockade that the LF is trying to impose on ports controlled by Gen. 'Awn just north of here, analysts said. "Sources close to the militia said LF artillerymen shelled an army patrol boat off the coast on Tuesday and set it ablaze. "The LF Monday intercepted a vessel that was heading toward coastal areas held by Gen. 'Awn, saying it wanted to interdict arms deliveries to his units."]

East Beirut Shelling; Another Ship Intercepted

NC2604182790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] According to the latest reports from East Beirut, Ja'ja's and 'Awn's gunmen are exchanging machine gun and rocket fire along the East Beirut and upper Kasrawan lines. At 1300, al-Jummayzah and Beirut Harbor came under artillery shelling. Al-Ashrafiyah and vicinity also were shelled this morning.

Ja'ja's gunmen meanwhile continue to impose a naval blockade on ships trying to dock at 'Awn's ports.

'Awn's media reported this afternoon that Ja'ja's gunmen today perpetrated a new act of piracy. These gunmen intercepted the ship (Naji) as it was on its way to the Antilyas pier, which the media said belongs to Beirut Harbor, and took the ship to an area under their control.

Syrian Defense Minister Visits Forces at al-Biqa'

NC2604152790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Major General Mustafa Talas, Syrian deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, visited the Syrian Arab forces in the al-Biqa' area to congratulate them on 'Id al-Fitr and convey President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings to them. [passage omitted]

Islamic Resistance Destroys Two Israeli Tanks

NC2704065090 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] At about 1500 yesterday, an Islamic resistance group detonated an explosive charge near an Israeli Merkava tank in the al-Ahmadiyah area, destroying it. The Islamic resistance said in a statement that several tanks subsequently moved toward the scene of the explosion and extensively raked the surrounding area. A tank accompanied by about 50 soldiers also moved toward hill 910.

The statement added that enemy helicopters were seen flying over the area at about 1600 to protect a helicopter that landed at the site of the explosion to evacuate enemy casualties.

The statement added that at 1615 the Islamic resistance artillery began to shell enemy reinforcements which arrived at the operation's site, hitting and setting another tank on fire.

Commentary Says Congress 'Extension' of Knesset

JN2604154690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Following in the footsteps of the Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives has passed a resolution endorsing Jerusalem as capital of Israel. One representative said that while he was against the resolution per se, he had to vote for it. Asked another: Are we Knesset or U.S. Congress members? A third commented that Zionist lobbies are behind the resolution and in control of the Congress. True, the resolution is not binding on the U.S. Administration. Yet, it constitutes an exercise in muscle flexing and openly defies President George Bush. The action by the U.S. Senate and House followed a statement by Bush in which the U.S. President came out against Jewish settlement of occupied Arab territory and the annexation of Arab Jerusalem to the Zionist entity.

Evidently, the Zionist lobby will stop at nothing, even if U.S. best interests are laid on the line. The Jerusalem resolution has dealt a body blow to U.S. credibility and efforts to promote a Mideast settlement. While sincere efforts were under way to obtain freedom for the U.S. hostages, the U.S. Congress was making a gratuitous gift of Jerusalem to Israel. With talk in the United States about terrorism still in vogue, the question arises whether the pressure being applied by the Zionist lobby on the highest American legislative body is not in itself a form of terrorism. What is one to make of U.S. Congressmen saying they are not convinced of the merit of a resolution and then voting for it? Didn't the Senate minority leader admit his mistake during his Arab tour? Didn't he declare the Jerusalem resolution was ill-advised? How, then, does the Zionist lobby so blatantly make light of U.S. sovereignty and interests and UN resolutions and prompt the highest legislative authority in the United States to pass a resolution incompatible with U.S. interests and UN conventions and adverse to peoples' rights to their land? The terror of the Zionist lobby has exceeded all limits. It is not beyond the realm of possibility for the U.S. Congress to pass a new resolution hostile to Arab rights and contrary to all international conventions and laws to fawn on the Zionist entity, as happened regarding Jerusalem.

With the United Nations headquartered on American soil, one would expect the U.S. Congress to set an example for others to respect international law and stand up to whoever tampers with homelands of other nations. For the U.S. Congress to go so far as to pass resolutions carrying risks to U.S. interests and world peace and flouting international conventions and values can only mean that the legislature has no will of its own, or it is an extension of the Israeli Knesset.

It must be said, though, like the Knesset resolution, the U.S. Congress resolution remains ink on paper. Arab cities and territory are not up for grabs; whatever the Arabs have been dispossessed of, only Arab force can regain. The Arabs, therefore, have no option other than to close ranks and rise to the challenge.

Soviet, Media Reaction to Al-Asad USSR Visit

Ambassador Zotov Comments

JN2604203590 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Statement by Soviet Ambassador to Syria Aleksandr Zotov to Damascus Television correspondent in Moscow, in Russian with superimposed Arabic translation; date not given—recorded]

[Text] I would like to extend my greetings to my colleagues at the Foreign Ministry as they prepare the visit of comrade President Hafiz al-Asad to Moscow. I understand he and our president, Mikhail Gorbachev, will hold important talks about the most significant international issues, the Middle East, and all aspects of bilateral relations. Upon my arrival here from Damascus yesterday, I have found that a great importance is being attached to this visit. Ours are ties of traditional friendship. Syria is a longstanding friend of the USSR—a tested friend to be relied upon in the region. Over two decades, President Hafiz al-Asad has played a key role in the Middle East. Obviously, regional developments will hinge on coordination between our two countries. We hope the the Middle East will see positive developments, stability, and equitable peace, taking into account the interests of all the states in the region, including Palestinian rights and the interests of Syria, part of whose territory is Israeli-occupied. I think there will be a profound, comradely dialogue on all these issues. I see this meeting as one between two well-acquainted, important comrades who hold each other in high regard and who will be able to discuss international issues and regional and bilateral concerns.

I am absolutely confident the forthcoming visit will mark a new step on the road of developing and reinforcing relations of friendship between the USSR and friendly Syria in the interest of the two countries, as well as regional peace.

Will 'Reinforce' Relations

JN2704054890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 Apr 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Meaning of President al-Asad's Visit to Moscow," AL-THAWRAH says: Leader al-Asad's visit to Moscow will greatly contribute to consolidating the course of the existing cooperation between Damascus and Moscow and opening new horizons in the various fields, because the visit comes within the context of a constant line followed by the Syrian policy under the historic leadership of al-Asad.

The paper says all the visits made by leader al-Asad to Moscow have played a great role in improving bilateral relations. It stresses the personal and distinguished role played by leader al-Asad to entrench and strengthen the ties of friendship and reinforce the resulting foundation of cooperation. It also stresses the two parties' joint struggle to strengthen world peace and oppose all policies of colonial hegemony and racial discrimination.

The paper refers to the friendship and cooperation treaty signed in October 1980 and the agreements based on it. The paper says: All of these things demonstrate the personal and important role played by the president within the framework of bolstering ties with the Soviet Union and the bases of mutual respect on which they were based.

The paper stresses: These relations constitute a pioneering model in international relations, because they reinforce the joint struggle for a world free of aggression and all of its causes. These relations will also deal a blow to all attempts to cast doubts on their stability and all those who wager on them becoming lukewarm.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Addresses Nation on 'Id Al-Fitr

LD2604221990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1630 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Speech to the nation by President Muhammad Najibullah on Afghan radio and television on 'Id al-Fitr; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. Faithful compatriots, sisters, and brothers:

The holy month of Ramadan, which is a month of virtue and piety, a month for purity of the soul for the faithful, has ended. The Muslim and religious people of Afghanistan are celebrating the happy days of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr. On behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan, I express my heart-felt congratulations on the auspicious occasion of 'Id al-Fitr to all compatriots at home and abroad, Pashtun and Baluchi brothers, our Muslim brothers in neighboring countries, and all Muslim people of the world. I wish them happiness, prosperity, and success.

During these auspicious days, I express my condolences to all those families and people whose loved ones have been martyred, injured, or harmed during the month of Ramadan as a result of missile attacks by the Pakistani-linked extremists. I wish all of them patience, tolerance, and many rewards. [passage omitted]

In light of the holy Koran's guidance, which prohibits war between Muslims, we will continue the Islamic policy of national reconciliation at various levels—by following this Koranic verse which says: The believers are but a single brotherhood; so make peace and reconciliation between your contending brothers—and with a desire for a rapid restoration of peace we will pursue the road to conciliation, talks, understanding, and the end of war.

Compatriots brothers and sisters, the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, which comes at the successful completion of the sacred and holy obligation of Ramadan, is a period of conciliation, talks, and the renewal of friendships which invites Muslims to abandon hostilities and remove hatreds.

On the occasion of this auspicous day of 'Id al-Fitr, in accordance with Islamic guidance and principles and praiseworthy Afghan traditions, I again call on all opposition forces to forget past disputes and differences and embrace each other as Afghan and Muslim brothers and to together take part in the destiny of our oppressed people and the country. As almighty God prohibits disunity, disorder, and division and commands all Muslims to unity, let's act together in accordance with the provisions of the holy Koran and the traditions of the prophet for the restoration of peace. I hope that the opposition of the Republic of Afghanistan will reply positively to this Afghan and Islamic voice of ours and choose the road which leads to prosperity and the good of the country, safeguading independence, national honors, and the Islamic and Afghan traditions of our country.

The Republic of Afghanistan in the future too will make every effort to ensure peace in the homeland and will resolutely continue the policy of national reconciliation as the only way to a comprehensive solution of the Afghanistan issue, which is the end of war and the restoration of peace. Now that the need and urgency is felt to this policy with every passing day and that obstacles are being removed from the road leading to its implementation, it is the duty of every patriotic Afghan to complete this work under way by playing their human, Islamic, and patriotic role in unity and harmony.

Taking advantage of the occasion, I congratulate the arrival of 'Id al-Fitr to all Afghan refugees who are living in tragic conditions in camps on foreign soil, to Afghans residing in Europe, the United States, and other countries and to all internal opposition commanders who favor the end of war and the restoration of peace. I ask Almighty God for unity and harmony among all Afghans in order to bring peace and an end to the war in our country. Success comes from God.

Rabbani Rejects Mojaddedi-Najibullah Compromise

LD2604222590 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Leader of the Jamiyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] of Afghanistan Burhanuddin Rabbani, has rejected what he called 'compromising moves' between Sibghatullah Mojaddedi and Kabul ruler Najibullah.

In his message on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, Rabbani ruled out any sort of elections and forming of a coalition government with the ruling Khalq (people) and Parcham (flag) communist factions in Kabul.

"Holding of nation-wide elections is not an easy task while the thunder of artillery and the roar of mortars and tanks have not yet silenced," Rabbani said in his message to his supporters.

Mojaddedi for his part has denied reports of agreement and the abandoning of the armed struggle against the Soviet installed regime.

Both Rabbani and Mojaddedi belong to the Peshawar based 7-party alliance, which is plagued by deep internal differences.

Rockets Kill Eight in Kabul on Festival Day

BK2604154090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1526 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 26 (AFP)—Afghan resistance fighters fired four rockets into the capital Thursday [26 April] killing at least eight and wounding scores of

people celebrating the end of the Moslem fasting month of Ramadan, witnesses and officials said.

The casualties came when an Egyptian-made SAKR-30 rocket slammed into the residential-commercial district of Share Naw, a government spokesman said. Three other rockets landed in the neighbourhood without causing damage. Spokesman Humayun Mukammal said most of the victims were returning from midday prayers on the last day of the Moslem fasting month of Ramadan.

No further details were immediately available, but residents said they believed the rockets had been fired from the Kohi Safi and Paghman mountains, sandwiching Kabul. Government troops have for the past three weeks been engaged in bitter fighting with the mujahidin in the Paghman mountains.

Officials estimate some 2,300 have landed in Kabul in the past 12 months killing more than 500 people.

2 Killed, 11 Injured in Kabul Missile Attack

LD2604193790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] As a result of five U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles launched today—the first day of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr—at residential regions of Kabul city, two of our compatriots were martyred and 11 were injured.

Contrary to all humane and Islamic standards, the enemies of our people fired these missiles from the surroundings of Kabul city at crowded regions of the city where our compatriots were engaged in offering 'Id prayers and visiting friends and families. Consequently, a number of our citizens sit in mourning for the loss of their beloved ones.

Those injured in this missile attack were quickly taken to hospitals and put under intensive care.

The missile attacks also resulted in damages.

Rebels Continue Battle for Paghman Mountains

BK2704102090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 27 Apr 90

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Kabul, April 27 (AFP)—Fierce fighting raged Friday [27 April] for the second straight week in the strategic Paghman hills overlooking the capital as Afghan resistance guerrillas pounded the capital with rocket fire. Residents said at least five missiles hit Kabul early Friday as people prepared to celebrate the end of Ramadan, the Moslem month of fasting, but there were no immediate casualty reports available.

A government spokesman said Afghan security forces and Uzbek mercenaries had captured some 10 villages in the snow-covered Paghman area, 18 kilometres (11 miles) north of here, from entrenched mujahidin. Government forces have captured a large quantity of ammunition and weapons from the guerrillas and inflicted heavy casualties, the spokesman said. The Paghman fighting is the fiercest so far near Kabul.

"The fighting might go on for a few more days. The process is slow, but troops are physically moving into villages and taking them over from the mujahidin," the spokesman said.

The government earlier this month denied that any civilians were still living in Paghman hill villages, dismissing reports of heavy civilian casualties. The spokesman acknowledged that soldiers were using heavy artillery and air strikes to dislodge the rebels from granite caves in the sprawling region, but said they were minimizing civilian casualties. The echo and thud of heavy shelling could be heard here throughout most of the day and night.

The government has said it has "about 11 soldiers" [as received] in the fighting in Paghman which began as a low-key military operation on April 13, a day after a mujahidin-fired rocket killed 12 children waiting for a schoolbus near the airport.

An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman has placed the mujahidin losses at about 500 dead or wounded. But local military sources said the Uzbek mercenaries have also suffered heavy casualties.

The latest fighting is the worst since the mujahidin offensive against the eastern city of Jalalabad, launched after Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in February 1989. Since the pullout, Kabul had adopted strong defensive strategy, hitting back only when attacked by the mujahidin, who are trying to oust the Soviet-backed regime.

"This is the first time since the Soviets left, that the government is actually taking on the mujahidin. It has to be with considerable costs to the security forces considering the advantage of position enjoyed by the rebels," a diplomat here said.

According to reports here, the guerrillas have dug themselves into man-made and natural caves in Paghman to protect themselves from aerial bombing.

The government offensive is part of a campaign to extend a security belt around Kabul in a bid to reduce mujahidin rocket attacks on the capital. During the past two years some 2,300 rockets hit Kabul claiming some 570 lives, by official count.

Mass Arrests Reported in Kabul After Convoy Blast

BK2704125190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 27 (AFP)—Nearly 100 people including a major general and senior officers in the Afghan military have been arrested after an ammunition

convoy was destroyed in a blast, officials and diplomats said here Friday [27 April]. Government spokesman Humayun Mukammal confirmed 78 arrests since the blast here Tuesday [24 April] involving a convoy taking supplies to military outposts in the suburbs of Kabul.

The government maintains that a flare fired by soldiers to celebrate 'Id, the end of the Muslim fasting month, had hit one of the trucks triggering a huge fire which set off the ammunition in the trucks. The blasts were heard throughout the city and the flames could be seen until dawn Wednesday [25 April].

"The 78 have been arrested for disobeying strict orders by the Kabul garrison not to fire flares," Mr. Mukammal said, declining to give the ranks of those arrested and discounting independent reports that the blasts were the result of sabotage. He said a government investigation was under way. Two trucks in the convoy were loaded with shells and other weapons while an unspecified number of other trucks were loaded with food supplies, he said.

Diplomats here, who put the number of arrests by Friday at 100 "or maybe even more," said however there were indications that the ammunition convoy was sabotaged as the two trucks carrying ammunition were covered, and unlikely to have been ignited by a single flare.

A major general whose identity was not immediately known had been arrested together with 20 other military personnel immediately after the blast by troops loyal to president Najibullah, the diplomats said. Disgruntled elements are known to exist in the Afghan security forces, and a failed coup attempt on March 6 was led by former Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay with the backing of dissidents in the Army and Air Force. Some 550 men arrested for their alleged role in the coup attempt are still in detention and are expected to be tried by a special court of enquiry.

India

First 'Indigenous' Missile Boat Launched 26 Apr

BK2604130990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The first indigenous missile boat was launched in Bombay today. Named Vibhuti [Majestic], the boat has been built by the Mazagaon Dock for the Indian Navy. It was launched by Mrs. Malati Ramanna, wife of the minister of state for defense, Dr. Raja Ramanna. This missile boat is the first of a series of sophisticated high-speed boats built under collaboration with the Soviet Union.

Launching Detailed

BK2704042390 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] India has taken yet another step toward self-reliance in defense. The country today launched its first indigenously built missile boat at the Mazagaon Dock. Our correspondent Sunayana reports:

[Begin recording] Vibhuti [Majesty] belongs to the Wheel class of missile boats, five of which are already in service with the Indian Navy. But, all these five were acquired from the Soviet Union. The missile boats now being built in India incorporate the Soviet design and at present have a 40 percent indigenous component. With her two gas turbine engines, Vibhuti will be one of the fastest vessels with the Indian Navy. She is also fitted with highly sophisticated surface-to-air and surface-to-surface missiles akin to the Harpoons and the Exocets.

Speaking at the function, Dr. Raja Ramanna, the union minister of state for defense, struck a note of caution in dealing with the present situation in our subcontinent. Later, at the press of a button by Mrs. Malati Ramanna, Vibhuti slid into the waters of the Arabian Sea. She will finally join the Indian Navy in May next year. [end recording]

More Evidence of Pakistani Interference Cited

BK2704034290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] More evidence of Pakistan's involvement in subversive activities in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab have come to light. An armed smuggler arrested two days ago in Ranbirsinghpura sector near the border has confessed that, along with four others, he had crossed over to Pakistan. They were given arms by Pakistani rangers to carry out subversion on Indian territory. One of them was also captured by a BSF [Border Security Force] patrol party with a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Air Chief Asks Forces To Remain Vigilant

BK2704040290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The chief of the air staff, Air Chief Marshal S.K. Mehra, has called upon the Indian Air Force [IAF] personnel to remain vigilant to meet any eventuality from across the border.

Addressing the biannual station commanders' conference at Allahabad yesterday, he said Pakistan is fomenting trouble in the Kashmir Valley and arms and ammunition seized from subversives bear Pakistan's markings, confirming its continued involvement in subversion. He also commended the role of the IAF personnel, particularly of the helicopter squadrons in Sri Lanka and Siachen.

Australia-Pakistan Jet Deal Called 'Regrettable'

BK2604160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] India has again conveyed to Australia that its decision to sell 50 Mirage-3 fighter aircraft to Pakistan is

regrettable and a negative development in India-Australian relations. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that the Australian high commissioner, Mr. Graham Barton Feakes, was again summoned to the Foreign Office in New Delhi today and conveyed India's strong feelings. The high commissioner was told that the decision of the Australian authorities is most unfortunate and regrettable, particular in the context of the existing tension in the subcontinent. The decision was not calculated to send the message of restraint to Pakistan and military sales would not contribute to stabilizing the situation in the region which is the stated aim of the Australian policy. The decision is regrettable, particularly in the context of traditionally friendly bilateral and Commonwealth ties between India and Australia.

Paper Alleges Foreign Secretary Pushed Out

BK2704095290 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 21 Apr 90 p 11

[Editorial: "Not Fair"]

[Text] The manner in which Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh has been shown the door is a sad reflection on the National Front Government which the people had hoped would respect rules. Bureaucracy has reason to feel perturbed because if the person heading the Foreign Service could be treated in such a manner, there is no guarantee that other officials will not be subjected to similar humiliation. Politicisation of bureaucracy will be disastrous to administration. It will be a bad precedent if with the change of Government, officials are indiscriminately transferred or sacked. Mr. S.K. Singh, whose 2-year fixed term would end only in February, 1991, has all along been regarded as a highly competent official against whom the present Government had no complaint. During his recent visit to Washington, Moscow and other capitals, he did well in briefing the foreign governments on the latest situation in Kashmir. Nevertheless for some strange reason, the Government was keen on getting rid of him. At one stage, he was offered an ambassadorial assignment which was strange on the face of it because, as an envoy, he would have had to work under a new Foreign Secretary, who was bound to be his junior. Reports say there was also an half-hearted offer of a gubernatorial post. What made him quit, however, was the repeated hint thrown by the Government not only to him, but also into the South Block [External Affairs Ministry] corridors that he was not wanted.

Is this the way the Foreign Secretary should have been treated? Though there is little parallel between what has been done to Mr. Singh and the circumstances in which one of his predecessors, Mr. A.P. Venkateswaran, was sacked at an international Press conference by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the moral of the story in both cases seems to be the same. Political bosses do not hesitate to get rid of bureaucrats whom they do not like whatever be the reason. Such an approach is not in the national interest. Job security is essential for the success of the civil service. The idea of a 'committed' civil service is bound to weaken the administrative edifice. Heavens would not have come down had Mr. S.K. Singh been allowed to complete his term till February next. And one who had proved one's worth deserved a better deal.

Iran

Persons 'Spying for U.S.' To Be Hanged

LD2604143590 Tehran IRNA in English 1327 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—A number of persons, earlier arrested for spying for the U.S., will be hanged within the next few days, announced the prosecutor of Tehran's Islamic revolutionary court here Thursday [26 April].

"In a bid to deal a blow on the Islamic revolution, the U.S. intelligence service used to regularly receive information from this people on the country's social and economic situation," Hojjat ol-Eslam Ibrahim Ra'isi told a press conference.

Authorized by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the Islamic revolutionary courts have taken effective measures to close the pending cases of the agents of the former regime of Iran, he said.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ra'isi also warned that armed bandits and those trying to disrupt the security of the society would be severely dealt with.

Prosecutor Announces Planned Executions

NC2604143890 Paris AFP in English 1420 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 26 (AFP)—Ten spies working for a network financed by the United States are to be executed "in the next few days," Iran's chief prosecutor announced Thursday. Ibrahim Ra'isi told a press conference that the spies were charged with having passed on military and economic information to the Central Intelligence Agency in the United States.

The spies belonged to a network dismantled in April 1989, which included seven senior Iranian military officers, the evening newspaper KEYHAN quoted Mr. Ra'isi as saying.

Velayati Links Western, Iranian Hostages Release

LD2604192990 Paris Antenne 2 Television in French 1800 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Interview via satellite with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in New York by correspondent Herve Claude in Paris; Velayati speaks in English with superimposed French translation—recorded]

[Text] [Claude] With us now via satellite from New York is Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati. He is in New York

to participate in a United Nations meeting. Good evening, Mr. Velayati. Good evening, sir.

[Velayati] Good evening.

[Claude] Now, we know the importance of the role Iran is playing in the hostage affairs, in the whole hostages' problem. According to your information, are other Western hostages going to be released soon?

[Velayati] We hope that in the future we will obtain the release of all the hostages in Lebanon and in Israel, regardless of their nationality.

[Claude] Do you think that that should and will improve your relations with the United States?

[Velayati] Of course our main purposes in carrying out humanitarian actions of this kind is not for this reason [translator adds: for a rapprochement with the United States]. As I have said for more than six years, four Iranians have been held hostage in Lebanon. Three of them are colleagues of mine from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including our former charge d'affaires in Beirut. There are also Lebanese and Palestinians. We hope that on the basis of reciprocity the other side [translator adds: in other words the Western parties], I mean the United States in particular, will apply their diligence and will deploy very comprehensive efforts, using their extensive moral influence with the hostage takers with the Phalangists and also within the Government of Israel, to obtain the release of these hostages—Lebanese hostages, Palestinian hostages, and Iranian hostages. If that happens, then we believe that this process will be able to continue too.

[Claude] Let us talk about France now, or in any case about your relations with France. There are no longer any problems concerning the hostages between France and Iran. Is the imprisonment of Mr. Anis Naccache still a problem in these relations?

[Velayati] Yes, you are right. We really hope that the French Government will show its goodwill in this respect, because if they do, it would pave the way to further strengthen relations between our two countries.

[Claude] Thank you, thank you Mr. Minister, thank you for answering our questions. [video shows Claude with Velayati inset]

Paper Calls for Second Hostage Release

NC2704064390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "A Test for Bush's Claim on Good Will"]

[Text] Release of the first Western hostage in Beirut is now a reality. This necessitates that those involved should now even enhance their well-intentioned common moves and cooperation and expedite their efforts to ensure the continuation of the release process for all the hostages.

Undoubtedly and for a fact the settlement of the hostage issue in Lebanon and occupied Palestine is beyond any single country. It requires an all-out effort on the part of all the concerned parties.

The Islamic Republic, in using its spiritual clout along this line, virtually left no stone unturned. The Iranian painstaking and continuous efforts in this connection over the recent months have actually proven that the whole thing is a highly complicated matter. One just cannot hope to achieve anything without paying due attention to the rightful demands of the Lebanese groups involved.

The TEHRAN TIMES believes that to contribute to the establishment of a general atmosphere of trust the Lebanese groups should release another American hostage. By so doing they once more prove their goodwill and preparedness for the settlement of the issue.

The Lebanese groups will certainly find it hard to comply with this request and their position is quite understandable. But perhaps the release of one hostage alone will not be enough to establish the kind of overwhelming trust needed to bring the whole hostage crisis to an end.

But for both the Lebanese groups and the Islamic Republic officials it is Islamic and humane considerations that count most. But goodwill should not come from one side only. It is a two-way street.

The TEHRAN TIMES, however, from the very beginning has believed in the unconditional freedom of all hostages on Islamic and humanitarian grounds only. This daily believes that the release process must be expedited by acts of goodwill by the concerned party on the other side.

To negotiate with Lebanese groups, which have been subject to all kinds of hardship under Israeli aggression and while scores of their brothers are held in captivity in Lebanon and occupied Palestine is certainly not an easy task. Their trampled rights should never be eclipsed by anything. Even the Islamic Republic will not succeed in its efforts to get the hostages released if it fails to consider the rightful demands of these oppressed groups. But if the other party too displays its goodwill, Iranian efforts can be facilitated to ensure the release of all hostages in 1990.

We do believe that the Lebanese groups should still free a second American hostage with no precondition. This they should do swiftly in order to leave the ball in the other party's court to demonstrate its goodwill if it has any.

In fact Iranian people and government have no faith in the U.S. Administration. But perhaps it is now time to test President Bush's claims that "goodwill begets goodwill".

Mohajerani Calls for Direct Talks With U.S.

NC2604170590 Paris AFP in English 1640 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 26 (AFP)—Vice President Ataollah Mohajerani called Thursday [26 April] for direct negotiations with the United States, stressing that such contacts could serve the interests of Iran. It was the first such call from a top Iranian official since the 1979 Islamic revolution that toppled the shah, political observers here said.

Mr. Mohajerani referred to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker who said Sunday [22 April] that Washington was ready for direct talks with Iranian authorities if they "reject the notion of terrorism" and help set free hostages in Lebanon.

"The hostages affair served as a good lesson," Mr. Mohajerani said in a commentary published by the evening newspaper Ettela'at.

"Syria, a brother country and friend which did not refrain from negotiating directly with the United States, emerged as a media star in the release scenario to advance its national interests," he said.

Washington thanked both Damascus and Tehran after a pro-Iranian group Sunday released U.S. hostage Robert Polhill in Syrian-controlled West Beirut.

"Negotiations have always been an obvious affair in the history of men, it does not need to be reasoned out or justified," said the vice president, who is in charge of legal and parliamentary affairs.

"If we don't take all this into account, after some years we will found ourselves in the same situation of stagnation," he said. Iran "never wanted to wall itself in and reject all relations."

The vice president said negotiations with the United States could serve Iran's interests in several areas, including efforts to free Arab prisoners in Israel, the deadlocked Iran-Iraq peace talks and Iran's reconstruction plans.

"Iraq does not cease to strengthen itself militarily and politically," Mr. Mohajerani said.

Turning to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's five-year development plan, he said "the economic and industrial reconstruction of the country remains a duty and the principal concern."

More on Mohajerani Comments

LD2604192690 Tehran IRNA in English 1845 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—A senior Iranian official has commented on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's statement announcing Washington's readiness for direct talks with the Islamic Republic. Vice-President for Parliamentary Affairs Ataollah Mohajerani in remarks published by the daily 'ETTELA'AT' Thursday, said Baker's statements could be interpreted in two ways.

The initial reaction is, said Mohajerani, the statement may smell of a plot, and therefore should be brushed aside without second thoughts mainly because of the person who mouthed it. However, he added, "I think direct talks may be viewed from another angle so that a better, or at least a less troublesome alternative between direct and indirect can be opted for."

To him, in the course of history negotiations have always been quite an ordinary affair which does not need any reason or justification. According to Mohajerani "direct talks with the enemies of God and the masses have been the tradition of prophets, the prophet of Islam, Imam 'Ali, and other infallible imams (peace be upon them all), and also the policy of the world's independent statesmen and revolutionaries."

He went on to elaborate what was in his mind, and said "the idea that negotiations do not mean the acceptance of domination should be taken into consideration, since in today's world we do not intend to shut off the country from the outside world by high walls or live in a world of negating relations."

The hostages issue was an "instructive one" thought the Iranian official, since "the brotherly country of Syria, not avoiding direct talks with the U.S., has starred in the scenario of the hostages' release and secured its national interests."

"While," in his opinion, "Iran's role in this regard, in the words of the U.S. President, has been unknown to Washington."

Mohajerani concluded "under the existing circumstances, if we fail to give preference to the interest of the country and revolution..., it will result in missed opportunities for the revolution, the country and a nation whose enemies want to deprive it of such opportunities and to keep us occupied with slogans for years."

Khamene'i Delivers 'Id Sermon Before 'Millions'

NC2704055690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Excerpts] The spectacular prayers on auspicious 'Id al-Fitr were held today in the presence of tens of millions of Muslims throughout Islamic Iran. In Tehran too, the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr prayers that were led by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the revolution and the guardian of the cause of the Muslims, were attended by millions of worshippers. During this spectacular ceremony, which was also attended by President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani along with the Tehran Muslim clerics, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i congratulated the Muslims all over the world and especially the Iranian Muslims in his sermons, and emphasized the need for all Muslims to observe divine virtue. He stated: On 'Id al-Fitr, Muslims should look at themselves and

see what use they made of the divine banquet in the month of Ramadan. The month of Ramadan is the month of self-construction and of piety. [passage omitted]

Referring to the great responsibility of the Iranian Muslims in preserving and promoting the divine objectives of the Islamic revolution, the leader of that revolution said: Today the eyes of the world are turned to you, the Iranian people. Today nations have started their great movements in memory of your movement and they rely on your faith. If you want nations to follow this path, which is the path of God and of Islam, you should continue this path staunchly. This can be achieved only by virtue.

In his second sermon, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i praised and thanked the Muslims of Iran and all revolutionary Muslims in the world for their vast presence in the demonstrations on Jerusalem Day, and stated: The Jerusalem problem, in the view of the usurpers of Palestine, is an incomplete problem. No one should think that the usurping Zionists and their international mentors wanted to take Palestine and to form a government, and that they came, they got, and that was it. It is not so. The objectives that existed in forming the usurping Zionist government are not fully ensured with the current Israel. Their objectives are more than this. The objective is to form a Zionist country in more territory than they have alreadt usurped, and with more people.

Referring to the extensive transfer of Zionist immigrants to occupied Palestine, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i pointed to the protests by Muslims all over the world against this great plot and stated: It has been proven today that apart from the movement of nations and the determination of the Muslims throughout the Islamic world, there is no other way to fulfil the Palestinian aspirations. Lauding the persistent struggles of the oppressed Palestinian Muslims inside the occupied territories against the regime occupying Jerusalem, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i strongly criticized the absence of true support by the Arab governments for these struggles. He also described the observation of world Jerusalem Day which was set by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God rest his soul, as an effective means and a sharp weapon against the Zionist regime and its Western and Eastern mentors, especially the United States. He pointed out: With the protest demonstrations and marches, the Palestinian Muslims should feel and know that all the Islamic countries and nations are thinking of them and support them.

Delivers Second 'Id al-Fitr Sermon

NC2704085990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0500 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Second sermon delivered by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr at the Imam Khomeyni Prayer Grounds in Tehran on 27 April—recorded]

[Text] In my second sermon, I want to discuss only one subject with you the sisters and brothers who have come here to pray, and that is to extend gratitude to this immense movement of the Iranian nation on Jerusalem Day. The Jerusalem problem, in the view of the usurpers of Palestine, is an incomplete problem. No one should think that the usurping Zionists and their international mentors wanted to take Palestine and to form a government, and that they came, they formed a government, and that was it. It is not so. The objectives that existed in creating Israel—the usurping Zionist government—in Palestine are not fully ensured with this current Israel. The objective is more than this. The objective is to form a country in more territory than they have already usurped, and with more people.

You saw that immediately after the Israeli state figures showed that the population growth of the Muslims in occupied Palestine was more than the number of Zionist immigrants to that country, they rapidly changed their old plans on immigration with the help of the powers and governments that back them.

The problem of Israel is more than this. It was thought that the Islamic Arab governments in the proximity of the usurped territory would be able to, or would at least want to, prevent the expansion of this cancerous tumor in the heart of the world of Islam where the three continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe meet. This is that the Palestinians, and probably some others, thought at first. But today it has been proven that apart from the movement of nations and the determination of the people—the Muslim people—throughout the Islamic world, there is no other way. Those in the occupied territories who are being oppressed, and are struggling, suffering, and being beaten up for this; those who are the only hope for the liberation of Palestine and the annihilation of the usurping government are these domestic strugglers. They should feel and know that nations think of them and support them throughout the world of Islam. [chants of "God is great" and "Death to Israel"]

If we want those oppressed strugglers who are strangers in their own homes to feel this, we should create similar popular demonstrations in the world of Islam. This is the meaning behind the initiative of Jerusalem Day which was propounded by the great imam and our great leader, may his soul rest in peace. Obviously the people who march in the Tehran streets are not fighting Israel with arms. However, the weapon of your clenched fist and your slogan is more crushing than any other weapon today for Israel, its mentors, and especially America. They can resort to other arms.

We saw that Arab countries did not find the strength, in several wars, to fight Israel with weapons and to defeat it. Each time either Israel won completely or advanced even if it did not succeed at first. Weapons, fiery weapons, modern weapons: Regardless of the kinds of arms the Arab countries around Israel have—and as long as Israel is within their target range—those powers that have

planted this tumor in the heart of Islam will arm it several times or more. This is their plan.

Something that does not have an answer, a weapon that neither America, the Soviet Union, and the other mentors of Israel have something to compare with, is the weapon of nations' determination and desire. The world politicians should know that the world of Islam has not allowed and will not allow this. They should know that we have not forgotten the presence of the usurping enemy in our own home. The Zionists cannot constantly present the Islamic world with a fait accompli. No. Nations are awake. Therefore, the struggle that the official mentors of Israel and their allies—the unofficial mentors of Israel—have begun against the struggle that started on Jerusalem Day is a spectacular one. They created a rival for it. They tried to make people forget Jerusalem Day. Nowhere in the world of Islam did we see world powers allow the local governments to force participation in this movement and march.

Unfortunately the policy of the influential and roughneck powers of the world has an influence on many Islamic countries. This is one of the tragedies of the Muslims and of the world of Islam. Why shouldn't the Muslim governments in Islamic countries encourage the people to march on Jerusalem Day? What do they have to lose? If they agree with the Palestinian ideal, then why do they not grant permission?

Frankly and justly speaking, you, the Iranian people, manifested grandeur. You displayed national determination in the true sense of the word. You made the world understand what the presence of the nation on the political scene, what the expression of view, and what the expression of national determination mean. The world is gradually understanding the meaning of the strength of nations and of their domination over various systems with the various incidents that have taken place in the world more or less during the past year. Our nation has displayed this presence, this strength, and this predominant determination—and not only as far as its own country's problems are concerned, but also as far as the most sensitive world and international problems are concerned; and one of these problems is the Jerusalem problem—throughout all the phases of life during the past 11 years. It was thanks to your very presence, you people, that the Islamic revolution won; and I hope and I am sure that it is thanks to your presence and your alertness that it can achieve all its aspirations and wishes. [chants of "God is Great" and "Death to Israel"]

May God help you succeed. May He keep you—the brave, powerful, determined, and united nation—always awake and always predominant over your wants and your own and your revolution's aspirations, God willing. May God convey the affectionate greetings from this your immense gathering and from the bottom of the heart of each member of this nation to the pure soul of our dear Imam. May God fulfill all the wishes of that great man as soon as possible.

In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. [Koranic verse omitted]

Issues 'Id al-Fitr Amnesty

LD2604202390 Tehran IRNA in English 1423 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i pardoned and commuted prison terms of 260 inmates sentenced by the Islamic revolution courts in 14 cities, on the auspicious eve of 'Id al-Fitr.

The amnesty measures had been requested by head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.

Ayatollah Khamene'i also pardoned 13 convicts of the special court for theologians, following a request from court prosecutor Hoj. Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri.

Velayati Meets Italian Foreign Minister at UN

LD2604114990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who has travelled to New York to attend UN General Assembly session, last night [25 April] met and conferred with his Italian counterpart in the UN building. According to IRNA's report, the Italian foreign minister in that meeting, in response to an invitation by Mr. Velayati to visit Iran, expressed hope that the trip would take place in the second half of the current Christian year.

Further in that meeting, the foreign ministers of the two countries talked about the delivery of 11 Italian warships to Iraq. In an interview with the Italian news agency, Mr. Velayati described the delivery of 11 Italian-made warships to Iraq as a danger to regional security.

Citizen Reportedly Refutes Danish Execution Claims

LD2404210990 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—An Iranian citizen, claimed by the Danish media to have been executed in Iran, came to IRNA office here Monday [23 April] and refuted the "hostile propaganda" of the Danish media. Qasemali Motavvar Lafteh [as received], 38, who is from the southern port city of Abadan was returned to Iran by Denmark after this country rejected his plea for asylum. The Danish daily BERLINGSKE TIDENDE quoting Lafteh's wife had earlier alleged that he had been executed after his return to Iran, and that his body would not be delivered.

Astonished by the unfounded reports on his death, Lafteh came to IRNA yesterday and said that he had been deceived by the propaganda in Denmark. He also elaborated on his trip to Denmark.

"I went to Denmark through legal means only to cure my heart deficiency, but influenced by a group who pressured me by their opinions, I decided to seek asylum," Lafteh said while expressing regret for his decision.

The poisonous propaganda emitted by the Danish media against the alleged execution of Lafteh by Iran reveals the ill-intention of the Western media to provoke world public opinion against the Islamic Iran.

Danish Ambassador Summoned

LD2604153990 Tehran IRNA in English 1340 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—Danish Ambassador to Tehran Hans Grunnet was summoned to the Foreign Ministry here Wednesday [25 April], for explanations on the Danish media propaganda concerning the alleged execution of an Iranian national.

'What is going on in Iran today is contrary to what is alleged in the world concerning the human rights situation and the Danish Government is aware of the issue,' Grunnet told a senior Foreign Ministry official. He was talking to the head of the First Department of the Foreign Ministry for Western Europe after being informed that the said Iranian is alive and that the Danish media propaganda was unfounded.

Qasemali Motavvar Lafteh [name as received], 38, is an Iranian citizen from the southern port city of Abadan, whom the Danish media claimed to have been executed after his deportation from Denmark. Astonished by the unfounded reports on his death, he came to the IRNA office here Monday and elaborated on his visit to Denmark.

'I went to Denmark only to cure my heart deficiency, but influenced by a group who pressured me by their opinions, I decided to seek asylum there,' Lafteh said while expressing regret for his decision.

Parliamentary Friendship Group With China Proposed

LD2504121890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The Majles public relations office has announced: In order to expand cultural, economic, and strategic relations between Iran and China, a group of Majles deputies has proposed forming an Iran-China parliamentary friendship group, and they will try to take positive steps to achieve their goals through the cooperation of their counterpart parliamentary group in China.

The group will strive to appraise common ground and possible ways of expanding cooperation in order to make recommendations to the relevant officials and organs. The group will also supervise the implementation of such cooperation. The Iran-China parliamentary friendship group has asked all publicity and media organs, the press in particular, to make endeavors aimed at enhancing popular general awareness of Chinese society and culture as well as that country's economic and cultural achievements.

Agriculture Minister Returns From FAO Session

NC2704094890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Agriculture Minister Mr. Kalantari returned to Tehran early this morning from Beijing where he participated in the 20th FAO session.

Speaking to our correspondent at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, he stated: It was decided that the FAO is to set up an international center for genetic engineering and biotechnology, and that a joint project to end malnutrition in Asia and Oceania will be implemented.

During the 20th FAO session in Beijing which was attended by 28 countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran was chosen as vice chairman of the session.

Paper Blames Saudi Arabia for Oil Price Slump

LD2404133490 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 24, IRNA—The English language 'TEHRAN TIMES' on Tuesday [24 April] editorialized on the recent oil price slump attributing it to suspicious political moves by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) countries led by Saudi Arabia.

Oil prices have declined by 2 to 3 dollars a barrel since the start of April due to the saturation of the oil markets caused by over-production by certain members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The editorial added that OPEC's 8-man market monitoring committee will hold a meeting on May 2 in Geneva to find ways of combatting the declining world oil prices.

"The main cause of the over-production are violations by three countries, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates," the daily stressed.

It added that apparently after a meeting of oil ministers of the three countries in Jeddah last week, Saudi Arabia is to reduce its output by 600,000 barrels per day (bpd) from May while Kuwait would reduce is production by about 200,000 bpd.

Stating that PGCC countries led by Saudi Arabia aim to put political pressure on other OPEC members, the paper said, "of course the Saudis try to pretend that they don't play such an important role in the reduction of prices. But this is because Saudi Arabia does not want to be isolated among other OPEC members or to impair its leading role in OPEC."

"This is why it pursues its political objectives from reduction of oil prices, through other PGCC members, particularly Kuwait and the UAE," the editorial concluded.

Christians Called Victims of 'Zionist Bullying'

NC2104103590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 16 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Zionist Aggression Against Non-Jews on the Rise"]

[Text] On Sunday afternoon [15 April] large groups of Christians in Jerusalem held several demonstrations to protest the occupation of a building belonging to the Orthodox Church in the city by Jews. The disputed building is located in old Jerusalem.

The Middle East Churches' Council meanwhile has also asked for the immediate withdrawal of the Jews from the building.

The Zionists' aggression of the rights of other people is virtually unlimited leaving no religious group out. Now added to the list of the victims of the Zionist bullying and aggressiveness are Christians. In other words even the Christian inhabitants of the occupied al-Quds, who are supposedly the citizens of Tel Aviv regime, have no security in Israel.

The occupation of the Christian-owned building in old Jerusalem once again marks the fact that the Zionists have no respect and consideration even for religious premises.

Buildings associated with the religious sensibilities of people enjoy a certain inviolable reverence in any given society even in those purely materialistic and secular.

But in Tel Aviv where the usurping regime lays an unsmashed claim to being "democratic", no religious rights are respected. Reports had it that the Israeli police actually prepared the grounds for the occupation of the Christian-owned building and encouraged the occupiers to do so.

The occupation of this building however has been met with outrage both in and out of Israel. Even some Israeli political parties have already joined the protesters asking for the removal of the occupation mob from the building.

Such outright acts of violation of the rights of other ethnic or religious groups by and large are part of the results of the uncontrolled emigration of East European Jews to Israel. In fact with the influx of Jews from other parts of the world to occupied Palestine more and more of such acts of violence and transgression should be expected in Israel.

Israel is known to have a history of using emigrants in carrying out acts of aggression against non-Jewish communities. All "dangerous" acts that might create some untoward accidents are usually relegated to Jews who have emigrated from East European and other countries. But those coming from the West are usually given key positions in decsion-making levels. So a second-class approach to some of the Jewish emigrants is very much in force in Israel.

With such a record it is quite likely that Israel will use emigrants from Eastern Europe to suppress the Palestinian uprising in a wide scale. Maybe Tel Aviv is actually bringing in the Eastern European Jews hoping to contain the revolution in occupied lands by using them extensively in suppressing the Palestinians.

Paper Decries 'Soviet Jewish Exodus'

NC2104113890 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 16 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "New Dimension in Palestinian Issue"]

[Text] That the massive influx of Soviet Jews to Jerusalem is taking place just in time for the celebration of the International Qods [Jerusalem] Day (April 20), this development gives the issue of Palestine new dimensions. In January alone, 4,500 Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union arrived in Israel while some 100,000 more are expected to be admitted into the Zionist state by the end of the year 1990.

The Soviet Jewish exodus has been prompted both by relaxed Soviet rules and tightened United States visa quota. The immigration is also being financed by U.S.-based Zionist organizations and the United States which earmarked a budget of $5 million to help the Jews resettle in Israel.

It is ironic that the horrific sufferings of the Jews at the hands of Adolf Hitler during the advent of the Second World War are at present mirrored in Israel's racist attitude towards Palestine. Yitzhaq Shamir's obnoxious scheme for the need to expand Israel has an eerie echo of Nazism. Shamir has forwarded the idea that if there is to be major emigration they need a bigger country, repeating the old Zionist dream of annexing the West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to move thousands of settlers there. By allowing new arrivals in the traditional Arab quarters, Israel is also trying to change the demographic make-up of the city of Jerusalem.

No doubt the immigration issue is a new Zionist-imperialist agenda aimed at sabotaging efforts to find a lasting peace to the Middle East dilemma. The United States despite its "propaganda claims" that Washington is opposed to the idea of continued settlement in the Occupied Territories, continues to frustrate and derail pressures being exerted by the international community on the Tel Aviv government.

In line with the Zionist racist policy are the daily killings taking place in the occupied areas. Only few days back, yet another bizarre reality was disclosed by none other than Israeli conscripts themselves. Three Zionist soldiers

on April 8 testified that they were told that orders to break the bones of Palestinian prisoners came from a high echelon of the Zionist military command. One said he believed the orders originated with then-Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This development is just the latest in the long list of gross human rights violations being perpetrated by the racist Zionists, to quell the Palestinian uprising of the intifadah.

The intifadah victory, however, is quite clear and there is no doubt that it would have achieved its goals if the Arab world had been united and consistent in its support for their Palestinian brethren against the Zionist plot. So far the Arabs, with the exception of Syria and Libya, have only come up with weak calls for the United States to withdraw support for the Zionist regime—pathetically failing (once again) to form themselves into one coherent and effective political bloc.

One glaring example of Arab treason vis-a-vis the Jewish immigration issue surfaced last week when Egypt finally confirmed reports that scores of Soviet Jewish immigrants have transited Cairo while awaiting final transfer to Israel. Mubarak, while supposed to be carrying the torch of peace in the Mideast and while acting as proxy for the Palestine Liberation Organization in talks with the Israelis, is also a benevolent host to Jewish immigrants about to settle in the West Bank and Gaza!

More than four decades of grass-roots rebellion by Palestinians to retain their homeland could now become futile if the massive transfer of Jewish immigrants are not curtailed. Since it is impossible to crush the intifadah, the U.S. and Israel have resorted to emigration to obstruct the liberation struggle of the Palestinians. Aside from being illegal, as stipulated in the United Nations resolutions, the influx could change the balance of forces in the occupied territories which is to the detriment of the Palestinians.

On the eve of the International Day of Qods all world Muslims are called upon to render an invaluable service to the Palestinian brothers—to show solidarity and to stress that jihad is incumbent among Muslims to liberate Qods from the claws of the Zionist regime.

Karrubi Stresses Ties with Palestinians

LD2204133190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpts] In today's open Majles session, Speaker Karrubi described the extensive presence of Muslims in the Jerusalem Day march as a sign of their loyalty to the ideals of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his noble dust be sanctified, and his eminence the leader. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] In this morning's open Majles session, which was chaired by Mr Karrubi, the Speaker praised the extensive presence of world Muslims in the Jerusalem Day march and said: While keeping alive the heart-rending issue of Palestine in every corner of the world, the Islamic ummah declared its indissoluble ties with the selfless and oppressed nation of Palestine.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mr Karrubi said: By their presence on the streets, Iranian Muslims, too, once again demonstrated their devotion to the commands of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his noble dust be sanctified, and the eminent leader and, by their glorious march, they slapped the face of the enemies of the revolution; they proved that, with strength and steadfastness, they will defend the path of the imam, may God be satisfied with his deeds.

The Majles speaker then referred to the anniversary of the formation of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution and spoke on the councils role in bringing about change and creating an Islamic environment in the universities. [passage omitted]

During the session, the credentials of Ms. Maryam Behruzi from the electoral constituency of Tehran, were also approved. At the end of this morning's open Majles session, a letter signed by over 150 Majles deputies addressed to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, was read out. In the letter, the deputies expressed their gratitude for the attention paid by the president to the country's underprivileged regions.

Paper Calls Israeli Immigration 'Conspiracy'

NC2304110390 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Apr 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Palestine—More Oppressed Than Ever Before"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Palestine today is more oppressed than ever before and needs the assistance of Muslims more than at any other time.

The tyrannized Palestinian people who have been enduring the crimes, coercion, and repression of the despotic Zionists for years are now encountering a fresh and dangerous conspiracy. The gradual transfer of more than a million Jews from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine which has been coordinated by the East and the West within the framework of a treacherous and racist plot is yet another trap set up for the oppressed Palestinian nation.

These actions, which are greeted with tacit consent by the sellout Arab governments under the cover of a false media campaign, are another step on the path of obliterating the identity of the persecuted Palestinian nation in order to change the equilibrium in favor of the despotic Zionists. These actions have been going on continually for the past four decades as a means of legitimizing the accursed and abominable Israeli presence in Palestine.

The Zionists want to relocate more than 1 million Jews residing in the Soviet Union to the Gaza Strip even though this would actually be to their detriment, as the

population of this area is mostly Palestinian. In view of the fact that world public opinion does not recognize the Gaza Strip as part of Israeli territory and considers the West Bank a Palestinian area, these areas are of extreme importance to the Zionists. [passage omitted]

Even though the right of the Palestinians to reside in their motherland has not been officially recognized, it is shameful that such a right should be granted to those whose presence has been a cankerous sore on the wounded body of Palestine for half a century. In this context the transfer of Soviet Jews should be viewed as a filthy plot which has been fashioned by the Zionist entity and the Eastern and Western blocs, which have coordinated their efforts in implementing it.

It is not without reason that world media and political circles should, under these circumstances, raise a calculated propagandistic hue and cry regarding the spurious and hollow stance of the Ba'thist rulers toward despotic Israel and endeavor to whip up a false media atmosphere in order to conceal their own racist role in occupied Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

The fact is that the tyrannized Palestinian nation and all other perceptive nations of the world are more intelligent than they are and fully comprehend the dimensions of this ludicrous political scenario. The Islamic movement of the Palestinian people has found its path and the deceptive political charade cannot conceal the abominable role of the Jerusalem despots. [passage omitted]

Commentary Stresses Muslims Must Oppose 'Plot'

NC2604201090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Political commentary]

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a resolution considering Jersalem as the unified capital of Israel, thus endorsing a similar resolution passed by the U.S. Senate on 22 March. Had this decision been made in an international climate different from the current one, which is dominated by the unjust use of force, world governments would have challenged this decision and silenced the U.S. voice. This voice adopted an aggressive decision which has no legal foundation as the United States has no right to decide this issue. However, this decision was made at a time of a terrorist U.S. hegemony when this country is dominating many countries of the world. It is no wonder, therefore, that this decision was met with collusion by most governments in Arab countries as well as those in Islamic and non-Islamic countries.

However, is it acceptable for Muslims to take a stand in line with their governments or to show passivity on the pretext that they do not have forums for free expression under the terrorist suppression of their governments? No doubt, it is difficult to accept excuses and even more difficult to accept apologies. What is unacceptable is any attempt to justify the delay in the adoption of a deterrent Islamic stand. The total lack of a deterrent stand cannot be justified under any circumstances. Everyone knows that the latest U.S. decision cannot be isolated from a major international plot. One of the links in this plot is the transfer of Soviet Jews to usurped Islamic land. Clearly, an arrogant international agreement hatched this arrogant plot which is designed to consecrate and expand the usurping Israeli entity in the Holy Land and adjacent areas and strengthen its role in fighting Islam and the Islamic existence. This particular issue prompts us to reject the current lack of a deterrent stance toward any step aimed at implementing this arrogant plot. This plot is aimed at striking at Islam and the faithful Islamic existence as a whole. All Muslims bear responsibility for taking the necessary deterrent measures against any regional, local, or international party which contributes toward implementing this dangerous plot.

Editorials Say Muslims Key to Kashmiri Peace

LD2304083290 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 23, IRNA—Two Iranian dailies Monday [23 April] editorialized on the Kashmir crisis. The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said, "The Muslims in Kashmir hold the key to any peace between Pakistan and India" while the Persian daily 'ABRAR' believed that any war between India and the neighboring Pakistan over the issue is in to their own detriment and serves U.S. objectives.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL welcomed the proposed talks between the foreign ministers of Islamabad and New Delhi at the United Nations in New York on lowering tension over the disputed Kashmir region. "It can help recede of the war of words between the two countries that can turn into a disaster by error or miscalculation," the paper said. It added, "A lasting peace cannot, however, emerge out of their talks unless the root cause of the problem are addressed and the Muslim Kashmiris are allowed to determine their own future." It also noted, "protest over the killings of Muslims in Kashmir by Muslim countries should never be interpreted as an interference in the internal affairs of India." "On the other hand," the paper continued, "the demand or the desire of the Kashmiris should never be regarded as secessionist tendency either."

The paper stressed, "There are plenty of firm and logical reasons to demonstrate that their present unrest is a just one based on principles that the government of India and the local officials understand very well." "The Muslims in Kashmir hold the key to any peace between Pakistan and India and any agreement without their approval is doomed to failure," KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL concluded.

Meanwhile, the Persian daily 'ABRAR' pointed to the fact that usually a world power plays an important role in any regional conflict and said that from what appears in news it seems "the U.S. is encouraging the Indian Government to quell the Muslims in Kashmir." It said,

"Following intensification of coercive measures against Muslims in Kashmir, the informed observers are of the opinion that such actions will not return peace to the region and will instead evoke new crisis in the Muslim-populated Indian states."

The paper suggested that the Indian Government should open talks with the leaders of Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir and pay attention to the rights of these Muslims. Such moves, it stressed, will no doubt put an end to the deep-rooted crisis. ABRAR in conclusion warned, "Any war between India and Pakistan over the issue will exhaust their potentials of which the U.S. will benefit."

Al-Bashir's Harsh Policies in Sudan Noted

LD2504151790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1056 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] According to official sources in Sudan, 28 of that country's Army officers, who had been detained last Monday on charges of plotting to stage a coup d'etat against General al-Bashir, were executed immediately after being condemned to death by a military tribunal. [passage omitted]

The hasty and severe punishment of those involved in the coup attempt indicates the depth of the existing crisis in that country and the al-Bashir government's inability to find a peaceful solution to the immense difficulties which threaten the survival of the Sudanese people.

General al-Bashir came to power on 1 July 1989 after toppling the coalition government of the former prime minister, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, in a coup d'etat. A year after the military rule, however, no light has appeared on the horizon to bring a glimmer of hope for solving the major problems facing Sudan, including the war in that country's southern regions and the ever-worsening economic crisis. Instead, the government of Sudan, by resorting to harsh methods, has deepened the country's all-embracing crisis.

After coming to power, General al-Bashir, by declaring a state of emergency in the country and by dissolving the parliament and banning activities by other parties and political groups, has created a suppressive system in Sudan. Reports from Sudan speak of increasing public discontent in the face of the government's harsh policies. The reports also speak of the organized opposition formed by various groups and party leaders in order to confront the suppressive policies of General al-Bashir. Some observers believe that since the al-Bashir government has failed in its efforts to find a solution to the major problems facing Sudanese society, it has now resorted to suppressive measures to demonstrate its might. In view of the intensification of these measures, it seems that General al-Bashir is planning to become the strongman of Sudan and reintroduce a Numayri-style military dictatorship. But the same observers believe that past experience has shown that not only will ruthless measures not solve the basic problems of Sudanese society, rather they will increase the depth and scale of the existing crisis in that country.

Paper Criticizes Turkish Media Coverage

NC2304102090 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 15 Apr 90 p 11

[Political commentary: "Patience on the Part of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey's Impatience"]

[Text] It was reported in the news that on Friday, the Turkish foreign minister summoned our ambassador in Ankara for the second time in the past 10 days and lodged a protest with him against the attitude of the Iranian mass media regarding Turkey's problems.

The characterless Turkish media has reported false and baseless news about the Islamic Republic of Iran, and this is not the first time that Turkey has done so.

Some time ago, when Iranian students at Ankara university were being arrested on false charges and subjected to debilitating mental and physical torture, the Turkish Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Ankara to protest reports that the Turkish security forces had mistreated the students and thus humiliated and denigrated the sanctity of the Iranian Muslim nation, which was contrary to diplomatic norms. The Turkish Foreign Minister officials displayed this attitude frequently.

Those who report on the ties between Iran and Turkey are constantly faced with one question: Why is it that when Iranian students are tortured in Turkey, the Iranian charge d'affaires in Ankara is summoned? Even when Turkey publishes groundless and false reports about the Islamic Republic of Iran, why does the Turkish Foreign Ministry summon the Iranian ambassador in Ankara?

Are our officials oblivious to the Turkish media's approach to our country's issues and their broadmindedness is making the others more audacious?

Again the question arises: Why is it that the Turkish Foreign Ministry becomes infuriated when its ambassador in Tehran reports our mass media's coverage of Turkish problems and summons our ambassador in Ankara, twice in 10 days? And why is there no reaction from our Foreign Ministry to the obscene attitude of the Turkish mass media regarding our country's problems and the false accusations and fabrications of the Turkish Government's television against the Islamic Republic of Iran?

Is it that our Foreign Ministry's broadmindedness has been transferred outside the country to our embassies, and that it has obstructed the transmission of such reports home?

Regardless the answers to these questions, it does not alter the facts. As a result, the Turkish Foreign Ministry

seems to have given itself the prerogative to summon our diplomats on the slightest pretext regarding the omission of even the most minor reports about this laicist government or to issue warnings on some other charge.

On the other hand, the Turkish Foreign Ministry seems to have reserved the right for its media to continue constant mudslinging against our country's sanctities. What kind of logic permits its government-controlled television to insert footage of some people facing a wall in the middle of a report on the bloody clashes between Turkish forces and the Kurds there—which is the most formidable problem in that country—and then announce that the arms used were smuggled from Iran into Turkish territory? After it then comments that all differences between the two parties should be resolved through negotiations, it is then decided to summon the Iranian ambassador in that country!

What kind of logic allows the Turkish media to label the press and radio of the Islamic Republic of Iran as "servants of the betrayers" but does not permit even the least reportage on the problems prevailing in Turkey? What kind of logic allows Turkish media to refer to Iran as "reactionary," a "supporter of terrorism," and so on, but cannot tolerate even the slightest comment about the problems of Turkey?

In conclusion, it may be said that the Turkish Embassy will not achieve its desired objective in relaying reports from Tehran to its Foreign Ministry. This objective is to permit its servile Turkish media to continue all kinds of falsehoods and obscenities against Iran but to thwart even the dissemination of the most minor report regarding the Turkish media's mudslinging. In our opinion, if the Turkish Government were to summon its media officials and to begin protesting to them instead, we might not have such problems in the future.

'Victims of Violence' Denounce Rajavi Murder

LD2604211790 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 26, IRNA—The Tehran-based 'Organization for Protection of Victims of Violence' today denounced the assassination of Kazem Rajavi, who was gunned down outside his home in Coppet near Geneva yesterday. Kazem was the brother of Iraq-based terrorist chief Mas'ud Rajavi who leads the Monafeqin (Hypocrites) Khalq Organization [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization—MKO]. The killing is believed to be part of 'factional vendettas' which of late has wracked the grouplet.

"We condemn the assassination of Kazem Rajavi as an act of violence, and urge all international circles to strongly denounce the act in order to put an end to violence," said the statement issued by the Iran-based organization.

"Kazim Rajavi finally fell prey to terrorism and lost his life although he himself had tried to justify MKO terror in Switzerland, under cover of political and revolutionary activities," it added.

The statement cautioned that based on evidence and with regards to MKO internal purges which began two years ago claiming the lives of several top members such as Ali Zarkesh and Abbas Zarbaf, "violence is likely to run high on a much larger scale."

It also called on human rights organizations and those opposed to assasination and violence to seriously counter terrorist groups like the MKO which cold-bloodedly murders people as part of its personal and hierarchial feuds.

The organization was set up to vindicate the rights of those victimized by violence. Its members are families of people killed or injured by terrorists, freed political prisoners, and families of executed terrorists who hold terrorist grouplets responsible for deceiving and victimizing their children for their sinister political ends.

Other members of the organisation include repentant members of the terrorist groups and representatives of minorities in Iran.

Customs Cites Figures on Imports, Exports

NC2204055590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Iranian Customs has announced that during Esfand 1368 [month ending 20 March 1990], goods cleared through customs were worth 42.1 percent more and weighed 40.4 percent more than those cleared in the same month last year.

The Central News Unit reports that 143,156 tonnes of goods worth 8,145,801,000 rials were exported during Esfand 1368. This is a 49.7 percent increase over exports in the same period last year. The report also states that during this period 1,656,000 tonnes of good worth 94,634,000,000 rials were cleared by customs departments throughout the country.

During the same period 81,626 Iranian passengers and 14,929 foreign passengers arrived via Iran's land, air, and sea borders. Also, during this period 95,119 passengers, 80,484 of whom were Iranians, left the country.

Rally Held Against Spread of Western Culture

LD2204194890 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA—A large group of people in Tehran rallied through the streets here Sunday [22 April], condemning the spread of the corrupt Western culture and those women failing to observe the hejab (Islamic code of dressing). The marchers also held demonstrations outside the Majles (parliament) building, calling on deputies to pass a law to fight the obscene symbols of the Western culture. They also read a resolution calling for creation of a system to monitor the

implementation of Islamic codes and campaign against the Western culture in the press and the radio and television.

Statistics Given on Narcotics, Smuggling

LD2304122890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Text] Thanks to the vigilance and efforts of the Islamic Revolution Committee [IRC] guards, more than 19,000 drug traffickers were arrested last year and 34,000 kg of narcotics of various types were seized. The information and operation deputy of the IRC, announcing this news to reporters today, said: Also, in the year 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990], more than 66,000 addicts were rounded up and taken to rehabilitation centers; and in line with the policy of fighting against the merchants of death, in addition to capturing the said number of drug traffickers and addicts, two main agents of narcotics smuggling in the Middle East were killed.

He added: From 21 March to 20 April this year, 2,096 drug traffickers and 2,616 addicts were arrested and 3,300 kg of various narcotics were seized. Referring to the guards' efforts to combat professional and international drug traffickers, he said: During the first month of this year, in the course of mopping up operations in the regions of Bardsir, Kevir-e Lut, Bam, and Nahrbandan along the Iranian border with Afghanistan, IRC officers detained three bandits and smugglers and killed 10 others.

He went on: In the plan for the current year, most of the country's eastern frontiers, border crossings, and the country's passes in the Sistan va Baluchestan area will be closed to the drug traffickers; all the information on peddlars and addicts will be computerized; all the data on offenders are registered in computer files, and the data are passed to the state employment affairs organization. Having offenders' records kept in their files makes it easy to deal with them.

He further added: A similar method is planned for students and pupils through cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Education and Training Ministry, by which any [Islamic] forbidden deed of the pupils and students is registered in their academic files.

While stressing the IRC's determination to deal with the issue of forbidden deeds, he said: The IRC is duty bound to confront any move which threatens security and public order in society. In conclusion, he referred to the fight against smuggling contraband items and said: Last year 313 sidearms, 347 firearms, 248 hunting rifles, 155 silk carpets, 267 valuable handmade rugs, more than 500 video sets, and large quantities of smuggled foreign currency were seized along the country's frontiers, ports, and terminals. During the same period 265 cases of armed robbery were unearthed and 104 arrests were made, when members and supporters of small groups opposed to the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran were detained.

Khamene'i Appoints New Air Force Commander

LD2404111290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, issued an edict today appointing Hoseyn Dehqan as commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Air Force. The text of the leader of the Islamic Revolution's edict is as follows:

In His exalted name. Brother Hoseyn Dehqan, following a proposal by the commander in chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, and in view of your experience and service record in that revolutionary organization, I accept Musa Refan's resignation with appreciation of his hard work, and I hereby appoint you as commander of the corps' air force so that by introducing the necessary discipline you can prepare for the blossoming of that force within the framework of its mission and arm it to defend the Islamic homeland. I ask Almighty God to grant you success.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 24 April 1990

Yazdi Addresses Law Officers on Anniversary

LD2404183990 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Law Officers' Institution [Police Qaza'i], Mr. Yazdi, head of Judicial Power, addressed a number of law officers on the importance of the responsibilities bestowed on the Judicial Power. Yazdi referred to the emphasis placed by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, on the role the Judicial Power plays in the country's social life, stressing the need for decisive and speedy confrontation by judges and judiciary personnel with offenders and criminals.

He said: The judiciary must confront decisively those who agitate the regime and those who trample upon the law.

He expressed his appreciation for the services of the law officers, calling them the executive arm of the judicial power. He also paid his respects to the martyrs among the law officers, and held in esteem the memory of the wronged martyr, Ayatollah Beheshti, the founder of the Law Officers' Institution.

Expediency Council Discusses Labor Laws

NC2504083890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] The Expediency Discernment Council for the Islamic system met last night under the chairmanship of the council head, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. According to the Central News Unit, debate continued at this session on assessing the Islamic Republic of Iran's labor law. Some more articles were approved on this law, which brought the number of articles on the labor law to 32.

According to this report, the assessment of all the articles on the labor law has been postponed until the council's next session.

Ground Satellite Installed in Larestan Region

LD2604121690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] With the installation of a ground satellite system and a transmitter with power of 10 watts, three areas in 'Uod region—around Larestan township—came under the coverage of Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's first [television] network. We draw your attention to a report in that connection.

[Correspondent] On the eve of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr [27 April] four regions from the large township of Larestan have come under the coverage of the first network of Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. With the installation of one ground satellite receiver, a transmitter with the power of 10 watts and radiated power of 160 watts [as heard], by Fars region's unit in charge of repair and maintenance of FM and Television transmitters, Koreh, Bidcheh, and (?Hirm) regions—around Larestan township—have come under the coverage of Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's first network. From now on the inhabitants of those regions can watch the first network's programs on Channel 7.

Central News Unit, Shiraz.

*Plans To Control Population Growth Announced

90OI0226K London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Iran's rapid population increase and its growth to the level of 55 million last year have led the Islamic Republic's health officials to take extensive measures in preparing to control population growth and to make plans to lower the rate of population growth to an appropriate and acceptable level.

The Islamic Republic's Ministry of Health recently announced that this year the number of centers for the distribution of birth control supplies will be increased in Tehran and other parts of the country, and efforts will be made to include lessons on family planning in school textbooks.

Dr. Ata'ollah Matin, general manager of family health in the Ministry of Health, recently gave a press conference in which he explained to correspondents the main programs for the future to control population in Tehran Province. This official said: To advance the family planning program and control population, efforts will be made to raise public awareness of the consequences of population growth and birth control, in order to increase the number of people referring to the health centers.

In one part of his press conference, this official mentioned the importance of education to advance the goals of population control. He said: Education, which is one of the important tools and factors in birth control, will grow and expand around two focal points this year. The first is specialized education, which includes health cadres such as physicians, midwives, nurses, and others, and the second is the public education plan, which will take place in special classes at the health care and treatment centers. In this regard, the media will be used to raise the level of public awareness.

The general manager of family health said: More than 1.730 million condoms, about two million cycle dose birth control pills, and 57,484 IUDs were distributed to applicants last year by the health care and treatment centers in Tehran Province.

The population of Iran, which was no higher than 30 million in the mid-50s, is now estimated at 56 million, and predictions have been made that, in view of the present rapid rate of population growth, by the year 1380 [21 March 2001-20 March 2002] it will be more than 94 million. With a rate of 3.8 percent, the Islamic Republic has the highest population growth in the world.

*Bomb Reportedly Explodes in Two Guard Garrisons

90OI0226E London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] After two days of unrest in various parts of Tehran, on Friday 17 Farvardin (7 April) [as published] two revolutionary guard centers in Tehran were rocked by explosions.

A report from Tehran states that tens of revolutionary guards and preachers were killed in an explosion at the Emam Hasan garrison at Asbadvani, formerly Farahabad Square, which is the center of the revolutionary guard ideological organization. The sound of ambulance sirens leaving this garrison were heard in the vicinity.

The Emam Hoseyn garrison, at Tehran Pars Traffic Circle Four (formerly Nowjavanan Garrison) was also bombed the same day, but we have received no information about casualties and losses at this garrison.

None of the organizations and groups opposed to the Islamic government has taken responsibility for these bombings.

Reza Pahlavi's press office, in a statement issued Thursday 16 Farvardin [5 April], claimed that opponents of the regime of the Islamic Republic held a sudden anti-regime demonstration Wednesday [4 April]

at Railroad Square in South Tehran, and workers of the Vahed Bus Company also went on strike at the Vahed Company repair shop in south Tehran.

In this statement the claim was made that in the Railroad Square demonstrations, supporters of a constitutional monarchy chanted anti-regime slogans and distributed photos of Reza Pahlavi among the people. They left the area before the arrival of revolutionary guards at the demonstration site and there was no confrontation between the revolutionary guards and the demonstrators.

According to the same report, on Thursday 6 February there was a severe clash between regime opponents, revolutionary guards, and Hadi Ghaffari's agents in front of the Al-Hadi Mosque near Narmak and Tehran-e Now. In these demonstrations, supporters of a constitutional monarchy clashed with agents of the Islamic regime and chanted slogans against the regime.

This report also states that clashes between the people and the revolutionary guards at Resalat Square, Shemiran and at the bus center for the Tehran Vahed Bus Company and vicinity led to shooting by the revolutionary guards.

There were clashes between regime agents and drivers and assistant drivers at the bus center for the Tehran Vahed Bus Company.

*1970-73 Birth Certificates To Be Changed

90OI0226L London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] The Registry Organization of the Islamic Republic intends this year 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] to change all the birth certificates for those born between the years 1349 to 1352 [21 March 1970-20 March 1974].

Based on reports from Tehran, early last week the Registry Organization announced in a published statement that the year 1369 has been designated as the year to change the birth certificates for those born between the years 1349 to 1352. This organization asked all the aforementioned people and their legal offspring to bring the necessary documents at the earliest opportunity to the registry office in their neighborhood and change their old birth certificates.

The Islamic Republic Registry Organization asked those born between the years 1349 to 1352 to bring with them the original birth certificate, a bank receipt for 500 rials deposited in one of the national bank's accounts, and three certified photographs in order to obtain the new birth certificate.

*Air Connection To Resume Between Iran, Canada

90OI0226M London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] This year Iran Air is expanding its network of flights and will once again connect the American continent to Tehran.

The news of the possibility of renewed Iran Air flights to the American continent was announced recently by Hasan Shafti, acting director of the National Iranian Airline Company, at a gathering of media correspondents. This official announced that on 13 March Iran Air began flights to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and he told correspondents that one of the most heavily traveled air routes from Tehran to the American continent is expected to begin soon. The official added: New Iran Air flights will soon connect Tehran to Seoul (South Korea), Muscat, and Toronto (Canada).

Flights by the National Iranian Airline Company to America (New York) were stopped in the early 80's after the establishment of the Islamic regime in Tehran. Tourism experts expect that if connections between Tehran and Toronto are implemented by Iran Air, most people going to America will use this airline and go to that country at a lower cost.

*Skirmishes Reported in Tobacco Factory

90OI0226N London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] According to a report from Tehran, on Tuesday 27 March there was a severe clash between workers at the Tehran Tobacco Factory and revolutionary guard personnel at the factory site, during which a number of workers and several guardsmen were injured.

The fighting began when the guardsmen conducted a body search and inspection of workers as they entered the factory. The workers, who took this measure as an insult, stood up to the revolutionary guards, and a fight ensued. The revolutionary guards were obliged to withdraw in the face of the crowd of workers and the incident ended.

According to the same report, the order to conduct a body search and to search the clothing of the workers was issued by the Ministry of Intelligence. The reason for this order was the distribution of anti-regime leaflets and the flag of the lion and the red sun in the days preceding within the factory.

*Compulsory Literacy To Be Enforced

90OI0226O London KEYHAN in Persian 12 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] Last Friday, Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced that if illiterates between the ages of 10 and 35 do not take part in the literacy programs this summer and attend classes in the schools, mosques, and religious theaters, "they will be persuaded to take part in the classes with the levers of compulsion."

Rafsanjani gave as the first "lever of compulsion" to persuade illiterates to attend classes the withholding of ration coupons for food.

He said: Our first idea was to use leverage to force illiterates to sign up, and we specifically set out to make the availability of ration coupons contingent upon their signing up and obtaining the coupon books. Later, during the study of this matter it was said that some of these people might be store or machine apprentices or drivers, for example, and be unable to come here for half the day or two or three hours. We temporarily suspended the compulsion, provided that there be a good reception for this program.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: I am saying now that you have two or three months to design your own program. These classes will begin on 22 June. All we are asking is that, without us forcing you, you arrange your lives in such a way that you can devote three hours a day to studying. If there are people who do not come, in the next phase we will bring them to class with the levers of compulsion.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, giving the first Friday prayer sermon on the occasion of the beginning of the International Anti-Illiteracy Decade, said that throughout the summer all the mosques, religious theaters, and schools must be converted to literacy training sites. He said: Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has agreed that the 2.5 billion tomans needed to carry out this program, not provided for in the budget of 1369, would be obtained from non-budget financial sources.

Rafsanjani claimed that, during the past 11 years, the national illiteracy rate has declined 20 percent to a level of 32.3 percent.

*Banking Activities With Egypt Expanding

90OI0226P London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] The Iran-Egypt Development Bank is helping the Egyptian private sector in the creation of modern tourist facilities and attracting tourists to the shores of the Gulf of 'Aqaba. This bank, which was founded in the mid-70's with financial participation by the governments of Iran and Egypt, continued its activities after the Islamic revolution, despite darkened relations between Tehran and Cairo and the recalling of political representatives of the two nations from their respective capitals. It is now a reputable Egyptian bank engaged in extensive financial and investment activities in development projects.

According to the London weekly economic journal MEED [Middle East Economic Digest], In addition to several large Egyptian institutions, including Egypt Airlines and the Egyptian Project Investment Company, the Iran-Egypt Development Bank is also a participant in the corporation that has recently been active creating facilities to attract tourists and create tourist facilities and hotels on the shores of the Gulf of 'Aqaba. This journal gives the figure $192 million as the share of the company executing the project to create the tourist attractions on the shores of the Gulf of 'Aqaba, and it notes that most of the investment in this company belongs to the Iran-Egypt Development Bank.

*Salaries of Civil Servants Increased

90OI0226T London KEYHAN in Persian 5 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] The Islamic Republic has increased the salaries of all retired government staff at least 20 percent. Based on this increase, retirement pensions will be increased from 9,000 tomans per month to 12,000 tomans. Those who wish to retire must have at least 25 years service. Women must be at least 45 years of age, men must be 50 years of age.

The general secretary of the National Administration and Employment Organization announced recently that the Retirement Reform Law, compiled by this organization, became law after approval by the Council of Ministers and enactment by the Majles and is currently in force.

Discussing the details of the amended law, this official announced: Based on this law, retirement pensions are calculated and paid based on the average wages and benefits and the difference in application for the last three years for government employees.

The general secretary of the National Administration and Employment Organization noted that the deductions, wages, and benefits for government workers have not changed, and are still 8.5 percent.

In part of his press conference, this official said: For workers who retired before 1346 [21 March 1967-20 March 1968] there will be a 20 percent pension increase, and for those who retired after this date or who receive salaries, a half percent increase will be given for each year of service up to 20 percent.

The general secretary of the National Administration and Employment Organization added: Those who serve more than 30 years will receive one promotion grade for each year, and this level will be used to calculate their retirement pensions, and this amount will not include the retirement ceiling.

This official, mentioning some of the provisions of the Retirement Reform Law, announced that based on this law, the maximum retirement pension is increasing from 90,000 rials to 120,000 rials.

*Skirmishes Reported Between People, IRGC

90AS0011A London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Mar 90 pp 1, 9

[Text] According to reliable reports based on statements made by eyewitnesses, this year's Chahar Shanbeh Suri [the last Wednesday of the solar year—14 March 1990] festivities turned into violent clashes between the people, the Pasdaran [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps,

IRGC], and Revolutionary Komiteh members resulting in the arrest and injury of a number of youth who confronted the Pasdaran.

Four eyewitnesses have described for KEYHAN their observations during this year's Chahar Shanbeh Suri festivites in Shahrak-e Gharb, Zafar Street, Yusefabad of Tehran, and Karaj township. In all four locations, the Chahar Shanbeh Suri festivities resulted in clashes between the people and the Pasdaran. The eyewitnesses also indicated that they heard that similar incidents took place in hundreds of other locations in Tehran, and in all instances the Pasdaran were finally forced to retreat and leave the people alone.

This year the regime had mobilized its lackeys and agents once again to prevent the people from holding this traditional Iranian festival. In order to prevent the people from holding fireworks, it had arranged for the airing of two popular foreign films from 8 PM until 10 PM on television channels 1 and 2 so that the people would stay home rather than go outside. Most people stayed home between the hours of 8 PM and 10 PM, but then they poured into the streets to celebrate Chahar Shanbeh Suri. Crowded streets and alleys in Tehran and Karaj after 10 PM were sights to see.

According to eyewitnesses, the extent of fireplay in the alleyways and passages was phenomenal and the use of firecrackers, [mock] grenades, and other tools of fireplay was uncommon and the city of Tehran had never seen the likes of it before. Especially the sound of firecrackers and noise-making missiles were so loud that people thought Tehran was being bombed.

In Karaj, in addition to these fireplays, some people used lanterns to make certain loud noise which was not done before.

Although the regime had launched extensive search efforts to discover and confiscate fireplay paraphernalia, which led to the arrest of over 300 people on charges of manufacturing and distributing such contraptions, and despite the high prices for fireplay tools, the people and especially the youth managed to purchase considerable amounts of fireplay items.

Despite the regime's arrest of many shrub vendors and the confiscation of their goods, used for setting fires on Chahar Shanbeh Suri, the people of Tehran set up many fires in the streets and passageways.

In fact, utilization of fireworks in Tehran began around the beginning of Esfand [20 February]. As a result, the Tehran police had issued a warning two weeks before Chahar Shanbeh Suri that, "Due to the approaching new year, it is noted that some naive youth cause discomfort and fear in the people of the city and especially the sick people by using fire-causing materials in various shapes such as missiles and pottery jars [explosive]." The Police had stated that they would adopt a very decisive posture toward the sellers of these materials and requested that the people report them and the location of their business.

On 6 March it was announced that 122 people were arrested within a 48 hour period on charges of manufacturing and distributing fire-causing material and the police confiscated 856 mock grenades, 50,282 missiles, 4,077 firecrackers, 3,178 darts, 89 paper missiles along with considerable amounts of orpiment, gunpowder, combustible jars, blank bullets, and detonators.

One day later it was announced that 212 people have been arrested which resulted in the confiscation of 22,000 missiles and considerable amounts of firecrackers, paper grenades, and other fire-causing materials. Despite all these measures Chahar Shanbeh Suri was turned into a memorable and exceptional night.

Skirmishes in Zafar Avenue

Starting at 10 PM extensive fireplays began and, a few minutes after the start of the fire, Revolution Guards came to Zafar Avenue and warned the people to refrain from exploding mock grenades, firecrackers, and starting fires.

However, no one heeded their warnings. Some of the youth exploded firecrackers at the feet of the Revolution Guards and caused their anger.

The explosion of a few noise-making grenades resulted in clashes between the Revolution Guards and the people. The youth, taking advantage of the cover of darkness, severely beat several Guards who had separated from their group. The Guards in turn wounded 12 of the youth of which four were taken to the hospital and one was in critical condition. Also, several people were arrested by the Guards.

In Yusefabad

In upper Yusefabad Avenue, which was the scene of fireplays and the celebration of Chahar Shanbeh Suri by hundreds of families, there were some clashes between the people and the Guards. The previous day, two houses were completely burned down on this street. In clashes between the Guards and the people three young men and a girl were injured, but their injuries were not serious.

In Shahrak-e Gharb

The activities of Pasdaran and Komiteh agents to prevent and disrupt the celebration of Chahar Shanbeh Suri in Shahrak-e Gharb was more intense than any other location. In various parts of Shahrak-e Gharb tens of young boys and girls had gathered for the fireworks.

Text of the report from Tehran:

The Children's War

Date: Wednesday 14 March, Chahar Shanbeh Suri 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]

Location: Shahrak-e Gharb—Nezami, Pasargad, Persepolis, and Sa'di buildings

Combatants: About 288 children, maximum 14 years of age (mostly between 10 and 12 years old) on one side and 30 to 50 motorcycle riders accompanied by tens of squad cars belonging to the newly formed Police of the Revolution.

Reason for clashes: Officials were quite upset about the children's celebration and showed their displeasure.

That day's atmosphere in the neighborhood: Under the circumstances where the rumor of a coup was prevalent and some had heard from the Voice of America (or thought they had heard) that the people are going to revolt on 20 March, the kids were very eager to clash with the regime's agents. For this reason they did not pay any attention to their orders. Although shrub vendors were picked up by the agents, the celebrations were held which led to clashes lasting over three hours.

The events: Pasdaran and bikers severely attacked the children and beat up a number of nine and 10 year old children. They drove inside the lobby areas of Nezami, Pasargad, and Persepolis buildings and broke the mirrors, big flower pots, and [entrance] glass. Also, during this incident, some of the children were attacked by knife and rug-cutting razors. Altogether, six children received knife wounds of which three were residents of the Nezami building.

The 13-year-old son of a military officer suffered a 15 centimeter chest wound and a 14 year old girl was kicked unconscious. They totally destroyed the phone system of the residences.

The children, while crying, were calling them "savages" and stood their ground before the Pasdaran. They kept throwing small noise-making grenades at the Pasdaran. This was contrary to the warnings of the Komiteh and the Police, forbidding the use of such grenades.

In the end, the bikers were forced to withdraw from the location and were replaced by the "Jondollah" [religious police] who tried to calm the children and the situation was resolved in their favor.

Among the children's slogans addressed to the pasdaran were "sons of dogs" and "death to Khomeyni."

*Several Killed, Wounded in Explosion 18 Mar

90AS0011B London KEYHAN in Persian 22 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] At 11 AM on the morning of Sunday 18 March, a massive explosion, which was heard all over Tehran, occurred at the intersection of Nosrat and Jamalzadeh Streets (west of North Amirabad Street).

According to Agence France Presse [AFP] this massive explosion, which leveled several buildings, caused the death of at least 13 people, including two babies, and the wounding of over 30 people. AFP's report from Tehran indicated that the number of casualties is likely to increase.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY, which did not report the news of the explosion until 8 PM, in its 10 PM newscast announced that the explosion was a result of the workers' mistake leading to a gas leak in the Jamalzadeh Street gas line.

Jamalzadeh Street is the first north-south street after 24 Esfand Circle, which crosses Shahreza Avenue and runs parallel to North Amirabad Street. It also crosses Nosrat Street (east-west) where the explosion took place.

A government official whose explanation was broadcast on the Islamic Republic Radio's 8 PM newscast, in this regard said: A new gas line has been constructed from Azadi (Shahyad) Circle underground toward Damavand Street (Fowziyeh circle). This line consists of several sections, the first section of which—from Azadi Circle to Zanjan Street (parallel to Jamalzadeh and closer to Shahyad [Azadi] Circle)—has been decompressed and [natural] gas has been injected in to it.

This person added: On Sunday morning around 11 AM, when the National Gas Company workers attempted to decompress the section between Zanjan and Jamalzadeh-Nosrat intersection in order to inject gas into it, at the time of injection, one of the lines leaked. Workers rushed to shut off the valve controlling the flow of gas, but by then much gas had leaked to the street level. This person claimed that as a result of a spark caused by a cigarette or a passing car engine the gas that had leaked to the street level suddenly exploded. Immediately, the operations were halted and the wounded were transported to hospitals, and residences in the vicinity were evacuated.

AFP, which first reported the news of the explosion, indicated in its dispatch that tens of automobiles parked around the location of the explosion were completely destroyed.

The last reports from Tehran indicate that the number of the wounded is much higher than the reported number and many are in critical condition.

Nepal & Bhutan

King Urges Support for Multiparty Government

OW2504040390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 25 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 25 KYODO—King Birendra of Nepal on Wednesday [25 April] urged the nation to cooperate with the new multiparty government headed by Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai. The royal call for cooperation came in the wake of violence and arson Monday [23 April] that left several people dead and destroyed government property in the capital city of Kathmandu.

In a speech early Wednesday, the king said he is saddened by the loss of lives and property. He said the violence should strengthen the resolve of the Nepalese to

ensure the success of multiparty democracy. The 45-year-old monarch said everyone should help the new government to hold general elections as soon as possible. Peace and security in the country are needed before such elections can be held, he said.

Bhattarai met with the king at the Narayanhity Royal Palace and briefed him of the public unrest, Nepali Congress Party sources said. He also met with the King Monday evening.

Leaders Appeal for Unity Before Polls

BK2604152690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1506 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 26 (AFP)—A senior member of Nepal's two-week-old interim government appealed to the Nepalese people Thursday [26 April] to cooperate with the government to create a stable climate ahead of multi-party elections.

United Leftist Front (ULF) Chairwoman and Commerce and Industry Minister Sahana Pradhan said in a statement to the press that reactionary forces were trying to discredit Nepal's pro-democracy movement by creating a climate of insecurity and fear. With cooperation from the Nepalese people and between the Nepali Congress and ULF, constituent members of the coalition government, such forces would be defeated, she said. Mrs. Pradhan stressed the need for stability in order to conduct free elections and draft a constitution in accordance with the wishes of the Nepalese people.

In a separate statement, a senior leader of the Nepal Communist Party, Mana Mohan Adhikari, also called for the Nepalese people to support the interim government, warning against reactionary forces that threaten to undermine recent democratic reforms. Mr. Adhikari emphasized the need for unity between the ULF and Nepali Congress, for which he reiterated his party's support.

Political observers here said the two statements were significant in view of the recent and fractious alliance between far-right panchayat (parliament) forces and far-left communists, jointly blamed for inciting violence here Monday that left at least eight people dead and 10 injured.

Nepal has been rocked by clashes since pro-democracy activists launched a campaign for the return of multi-party democracy to this Himalayan kingdom February 18. The government said Thursday it was extending a dusk-to-dawn curfew on Kathmandu for the fourth consecutive day and on the outlying suburb of Lalitpur for the second day.

New Interim Government Disbands Local Councils

BK2704071190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Kathmandu, April 27 (AFP)—The new interim coalition government in Nepal has disbanded all the partyless local councils, or Panchayats, in accordance with "the will of the general public", the chief spokesman of Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai's Nepali Congress Party said Friday [27 April]. The 4,022 village and town Panchayats and the 75 district Panchayats formed the lower tiers of Nepal's administrative system, with the national Panchayat, or Parliament, at the top. The system, in which political parties were banned, collapsed last week after seven weeks of sometimes violent pro-democracy demonstrations ending in the appointment of an interim coalition government of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front (ULF) to prepare multi-party general elections.

Briefing journalists after a three-day meeting of the Nepali Congress Central Working Committee (NCCWC), chief party Spokesman C.K. Prasai said the government had decided on the dissolution of the Panchayats at a Cabinet meeting Thursday [26 April].

Analysts said that at least 280,000 pro-Panchayat cadres would be laid off.

"This was a very swift and drastic step taken by the coalition government of the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front as per the wishes of the general public", Mr. Prasai said.

A Nepali Congress source said earlier Friday that the government had ordered the country's 14 zonal commissioners, or regional administrators, to assemble in Kathmandu by Saturday [28 April]. The meeting was called to discuss the maintenance of law and order and the running of the administration in Nepal's 14 zones and 75 administrative districts, as well as arrangements for holding general elections, the source said.

Overnight Curfew Lifted in Kathmandu 26 Apr

BK2604051290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] In Kathmandu, dusk-to-dawn curfew imposed last evening [25 April] was lifted this morning. The Nepalese home minister, Mr. Y.P. Upadhyaya, told our correspondent that no untoward incident was reported from any part of the city. He said the police personnel joined the Army in enforcing the curfew.

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan on Talks With UN Chief, India's Gujral Disputes Indian Account

BK2704024890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan met UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar at the United Nations yesterday and apprised him of the deteriorating situation in the occupied Kashmir and recent developments in Afghanistan.

Later, addressing a news conference, the foreign minister said he informed the UN chief that the Indian allegation about Pakistan's interference in the ongoing struggle in Kashmir is not true. The situation in occupied Kashmir is extremely grave and serious because of Indian forces' barbaric atrocities against the Kashmiris. He drew the attention of the UN secretary general toward these atrocities and said they should be stopped immediately. The foreign minister added that India should hold a plebiscite in Kashmir under the supervision of the United Nations in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions so as to give an opportunity to the Kashmiri people to exercise their right of self-determination.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan described as incorrect India's contention that the UN Security Council's resolutions on Kashmir have become ineffective after the Simla Agreement. The Security Council's resolutions cannot become ineffective with the passage of time, he observed.

Answering a question if his talks with his Indian counterpart have reduced the possibility of a war, the foreign minister said Pakistan firmly believes that keeping the channels of communication open is a good way to end the possibilities of this nature and to ease the intensity of any crisis.

About Afghanistan, the foreign minister said he has apprised the UN secretary general of the efforts Pakistan is making to achieve a peaceful settlement of this issue. He has informed the world body chief of the proposal to help conduct elections in Afghanistan under the supervision of the United Nations or the Islamic Conference Organization so that a representative and broad-based government acceptable to the Afghan people can be established in Afghanistan.

Calls Gujral Meeting 'Step Forward'

BK2704035290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said that his country would like to resolve the Kashmir problem bilaterally, but would keep its options open. He denied Pakistan's involvement in subversive activities in Jammu and Kashmir, but agreed to examine the allegations in a section of the Pakistan press that Islamabad is backing the so-called JKLF [Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front] leader, Amanullah Khan, for inciting violence and killing innocent people in the Kashmir Valley. He was speaking to newsmen in New York yesterday after a meeting with the UN secretary general, Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

Mr. Yaqub Khan described his meeting with the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, as a step forward in seeking a peaceful settlement to the Kashmir issue.

The Pakistan foreign minister later met the U.S. secretary of state, Mr. James Baker, and was reported to have discussed the Kashmir issue with him.

Sri Lanka

Minister Appreciates Chinese Government's Support

BK2604120890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Text] The state minister of information, A.J. Ranasinghe, says the constant friendly relations between Sri Lanka and China was a matter of satisfaction for both countries. Felicitating a radio, cinema, and TV team from China in Colombo yesterday, Mr. Ranasinghe made particular mention of the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] and the new court complex as important contributions made to Sri Lanka by the Chinese Government. He recalled the support extended by Beijing to Sri Lanka when the country was going through a difficult period without just remaining as a distant [word indistinct] onlooker. It also came out in support of Sri lanka's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The head of the delegation and vice minister of the radio, cinema and television, Ma Qingxiong, in reply said that Sri Lanka had supported China in times of difficulties and made particular reference to the support extended when Beijing sought UN membership. The Chinese official said that the rubber-rice pact was another gesture of the friendly relations between China and Sri Lanka.

Government Reportedly Bans Latest Issue of TIME

BK2404082590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0740 GMT 24 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, April 23 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government has banned the latest issue of TIME magazine because of an article referring to the death of a Sri Lankan journalist, a daily newspaper reported Tuesday [24 April]. DINARASA, a Sinhalese daily said the ban on the latest edition of the New York-based weekly magazine was due to an article on the death of local journalist Richard de Zoysa, killed by unknown gunmen in February.

Senior Customs and Information Ministry officials said they were unaware of any ban.

A spokesman for the distributors of TIME in Sri Lanka said Tuesday that the latest issue "has not been released yet" although he did not say by which ministry.

The body of Mr. De Zoysa, who was also a popular television and screen personality was found with bullet wounds on a beach outside Colombo February 19 a day after unidentified gunmen abducted him from his house here.